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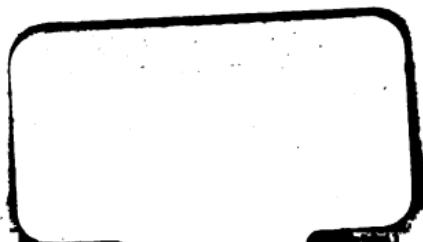
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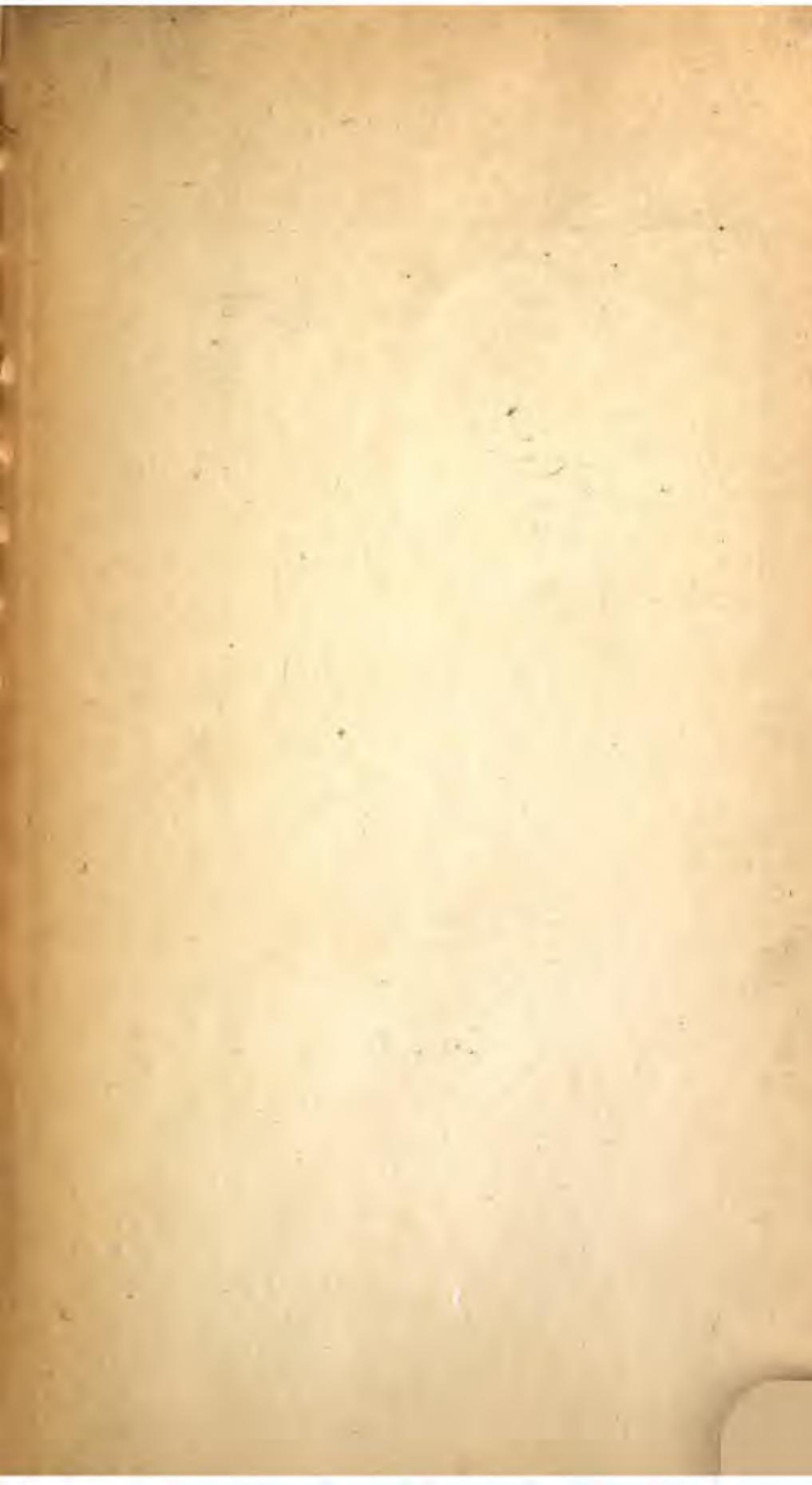
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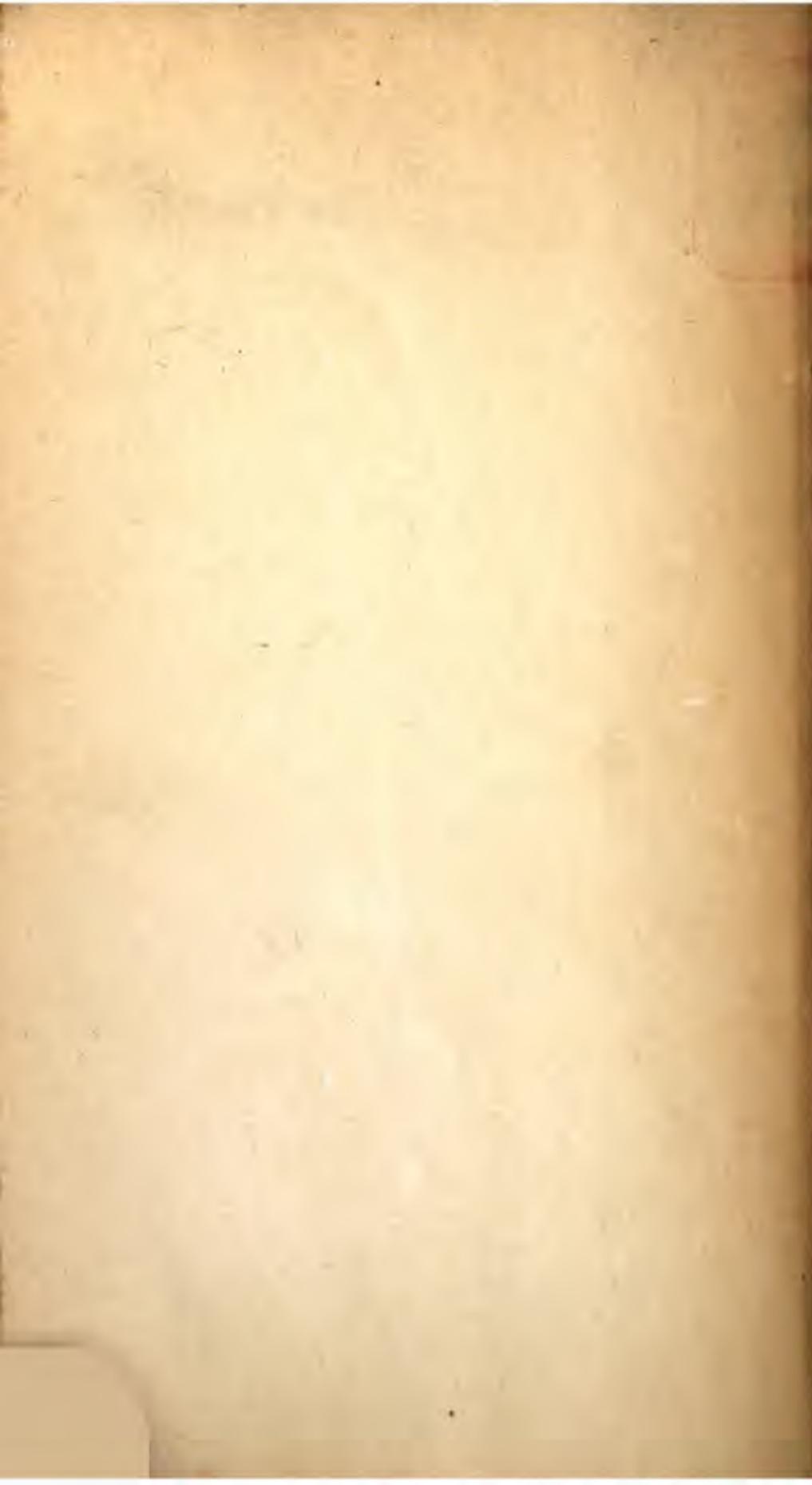
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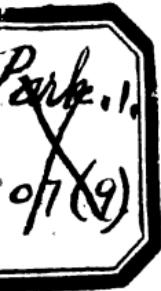
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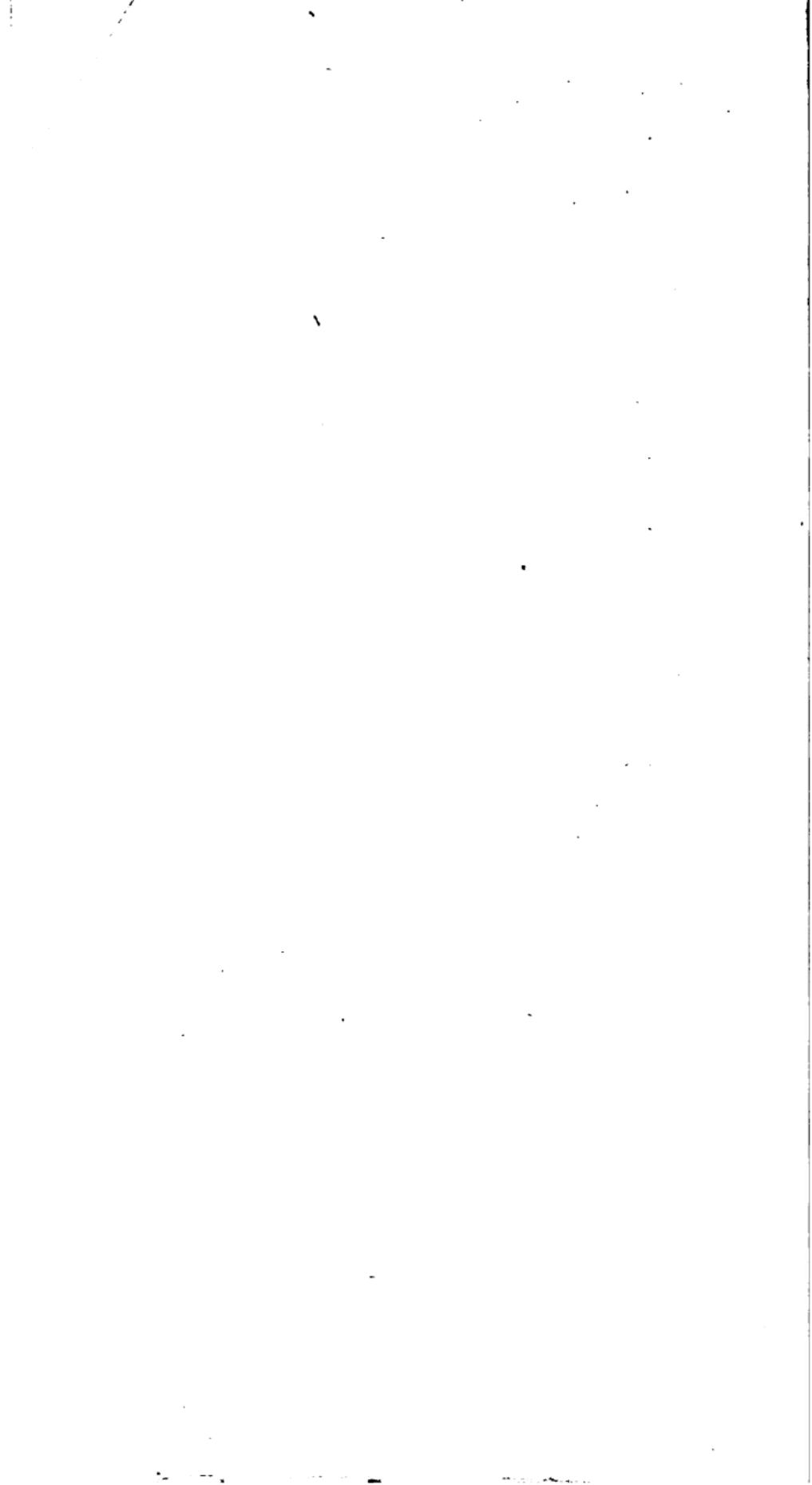




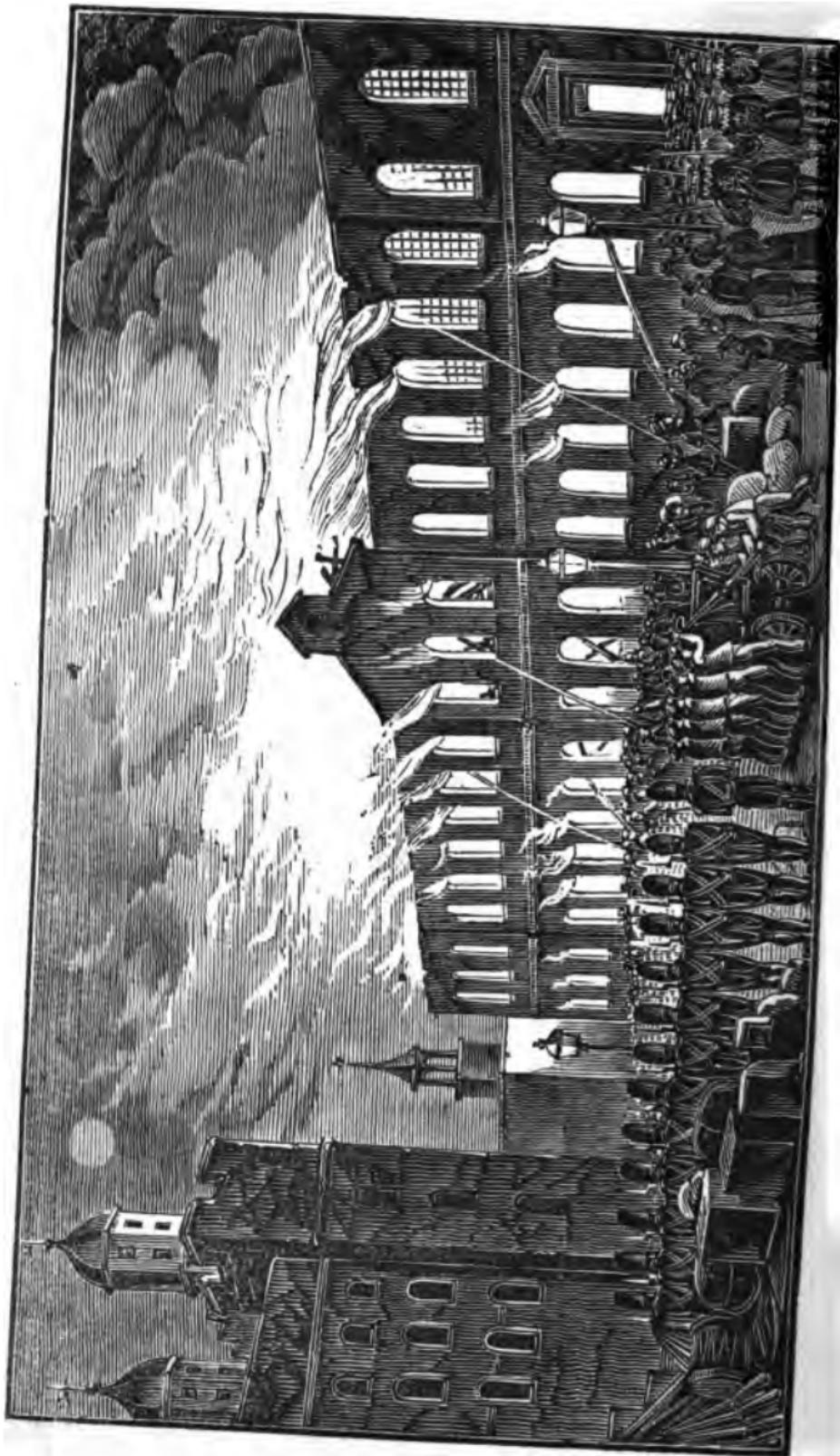
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A SHORT HISTORY
OF THE
TOWER OF LONDON;
WITH A LIST OF THE
INTERESTING CURIOSITIES
CONTAINED IN THE
Armories and Regalia.

BY JOSEPH WHEELER.

“There you behold the Tower of London,” said Winwike, pointing downwards.
“And there I read the history of England,” said Renard.
“If it is written in those towers, it is a dark and bloody history,” replied the warden; “and yet your worship says truly. The building on which we stand, and those around us, are the best chronicles of our country. I can recount to your worship their foundation, and the chief events that have happened within them, if you are disposed to listen to me.”—*Ainsworth's Tower of London.*

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HISTORY, ETC.
OF THE
TOWER OF LONDON.

THERE is not, in this country, a building so replete with historical associations as the TOWER OF LONDON. Its early character as a palace, a prison, and a fortress, immediately connected with the metropolis, has rendered an acquaintance with its annals indispensable to a knowledge of the history of our great nation—annals which frequently supply, in their detail, those secret springs of political action, in the absence of which, the historian too frequently substitutes fancy for truth, and consequently produces, in the result of his labours, a mere tale *founded* on facts.

The opinions of antiquaries have been somewhat divided as to the origin of the Tower of London: by some it is supposed to have been erected by Julius Cæsar; but the majority have attributed the undertaking to William the Conqueror. The former conjecture was strengthened by a discovery made in 1777: it appears, that while employed in digging the foundations of a new office for the Board of Ordnance, the workmen at a considerable depth, came to some foundations of ancient buildings, below which were found three gold coins and a silver ingot: one of the coins was of the time of the emperor Honorius; the others of Arcadius, his brother, who reigned over the Eastern, as Honorius did over the Western Empire. The ingot was in the form of a double wedge, four inches long, weighing 10 oz. 8 gr. troy, and on the centre was impressed “EX. OFFIC. HONORII. But the short time that the Roman conqueror remained in Britain, together with his total silence upon the subject of any such work on his part, are circumstances which have been deemed sufficiently strong to throw considerable doubt upon the Roman origin of these poetically-styled “Towers of Julius:” indeed, antiquarians have become nearly unanimous in ascribing the foundation of this citadel to the policy of the bold Norman.

It is, however, somewhat remarkable, that the earliest describer of the Tower, Fitz-Stephen, who lived in the twelfth century, has not ventured to suggest who laid its foundations: “London (says this ancient chronicler) hath on the east part, a Tower

Palatine, very large and very strong, whose court and walls rise up from a deep foundation. *The mortar is tempered with the blood of beasts.*" Whether the writer intended the latter expression to bear a literal meaning, or to convey thereby a bold metaphor of the dark purposes to which the Tower of London was devoted, must of course be left to the judgment or fancy of the reader: but although in the course of its annals as a palace, its royal tenants have "welcom'd shout and revelry"—yet as a prison must it chiefly be regarded by posterity; calling up, in our recollections connected with its annals, tales of fearful and melancholy interest; associating it but too closely with the idea of a structure whose walls have indeed been cemented with blood! "To those who remember (says Hallam) the annals of their country, that dark and gloomy pile affords associations, not quite so numerous and recent as the Bastile, yet enough to excite our hatred and horror. But standing, as it does, in such striking contrast to the fresh and flourishing constructions of modern wealth, the proofs and the rewards of civil and religious liberty, it seems like a captive tyrant, reserved to grace the triumph of a victorious republic; and should teach us to reflect in thankfulness, how highly we have been elevated in virtue and happiness above our forefathers."*

We now proceed to relate, as far as our limits will admit, particulars connected with the above subject in its historical point of view; and will also submit to the reader in the course of our task, a list of the Tower Curiosities open to public view.

The lofty square building with white turrets, so conspicuous from Tower-hill and the surrounding neighbourhood, is that White Tower, which we have before remarked as the reputed work of William the Conqueror, who appointed Gundulph, then Bishop of Rochester, as principal supervisor and surveyor in this undertaking. But in the time of its founder, the Tower presented a naked and isolated appearance; and in the succeeding reign (that of William Rufus) is said, "by the injury of the heavens and violence of tempest" to have been "sore shaken": our ancient chroniclers further tell us, and with much feeling, that the said Rufus "challenged the investiture of prelates, and pill'd the people pitifully, to spend the treasure about the Tower of London and the great Hall at Westminster." In this reign and that of Henry I. it appears that needful repairs were executed; and Stow in describing the improvements made by these monarchs, says "they also caused a castle to be builded under the said Tower, to wit, on the south side towards the Thames, and also encastelated the same round about."

* Hallam's Constitutional History of England, vol. i. chap. 3

The first four Constables of the Tower are stated to have held, as by virtue of the office, a portion of land that had formerly appertained to the priory of the Holy Trinity; which land, situate in East Smithfield, they turned into a vineyard; an assumption which in Stephen's time was relinquished in favour of the church. Under Geoffrey de Magnaville, its fourth constable, the Tower was fortified against Stephen: but the struggle with the usurper proved ineffectual, and the intrepid constable was ultimately compelled to surrender.

In the reign of Henry I. Ralph Flambard, Bishop of Durham and favorite of William Rufus, was committed to custody in the Tower—seemingly as a peace-offering, on the part of Henry, to the citizens, whom he wished to conciliate; for the part which Flambard had taken in the tyranny and exactions of the preceding reign had rendered him highly unpopular. But our national fortress does not appear in this instance to have possessed the character for strength which it soon after attained: for during a most jovial imprisonment, the light-hearted captive received a rope, concealed in a vessel of wine: with the wine he held an extra carouse, in which his jailors joined with such hearty good will, that they were soon reduced to a state of insensibility; upon which, the crafty prelate fastened the rope to the middle column of his window, let himself down, and escaped to Normandy.

The Tower was further improved by the celebrated Thomas a Becket, chancellor to Henry II. In the succeeding reign, during the absence of Richard I. in the Holy Land, an important addition was made by Longchamp, Bishop of Ely: that warlike and ambitious churchman maintained this position against John and his partisans, and “enclosed the Tower of London with an outward wall of stone embattailed, and also caused a deep ditch to be cast about the same, and thought to have environed it with the Thames.” Longchamp was ultimately dispossessed of the Tower, but was permitted to retire to the priory of Bermondsey; from thence he stole to Canterbury, and in the disguise of a female hawker, escaped from that place to Dover; where, sitting by the sea-side, and waiting for a boat, he is said to have been accosted by some fishermen's wives, enquiring the price of his wares: he could only answer with a burst of laughter: this Chancellor of England—this Bishop of Ely, said to have been even born in England, could not speak a single word of English!—a curious instance of the extinction of the native language amongst the rude nobility of that period.

In the year 1215, the great struggle ensued between John and his barons: the city surrendered to the latter, and siege was laid to the Tower, which held out until the signing of the great

CHARTER, but was then delivered in trust to the Archbishop of Canterbury for a given time, as security for the royal fulfilment of certain conditions attached to the celebrated code. John, in the mean time, conciliated the pope, and used the power thus regained, in endeavouring to shake off the yoke imposed upon him by the barons: a fierce civil war ensued; the aid of the French was called for against the royal party, and the Tower placed in the possession of Prince Lewis: but the death of John, the loyalty of the English to his youthful successor, with a series of disasters, induced Lewis to give up this and other fortresses.

Henry III. now in possession of the Tower, perceived its weakness as a fortress: he therefore directed his attention to the strengthening of its bulwarks, especially towards the west; operations which were regarded with considerable jealousy by the citizens of that period. As Henry made the Tower his chief residence, he also added to its internal comfort and beauty as a palace; indeed, in the subsequent years of this monarch's reign, he had frequently to resort thither for safety, until the result of the battle of Evesham crushed the power of those who had opposed him. This monarch appears to have possessed a taste for the fine arts; as it is in connection with his reign that mention is made of the Chapel in the White Tower, which he decorated with paintings, sculpture, &c.

But although the Tower was thus invested with the splendour of a palace, it became more than proportionately formidable as a state prison; and for ages after the commencement of the thirteenth century, scarcely a year transpired that did not witness the incarceration of some distinguished individuals within its walls. In this reign, the faithful servant and adviser of preceding monarchs, the high-minded Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, underwent a course of the most cruel persecution. Twice was he dragged from the altar to which he had fled for sanctuary, to be immured in the dungeons of this fortress: and although succeeding events did enable him to close his days in peaceful obscurity, yet the affecting story of his misfortunes stamps the character of Henry with infamy. In this reign Griffin, the unfortunate Welsh prince, delivered (with others) as a hostage into the king's hands, broke his neck in an attempt to escape from the Tower.

Edward I. is supposed to have made the last additions of importance to the Tower: he added to its fortifications and enlarged the ditch by which they are surrounded. Of this period we shall have occasion to speak hereafter.

Edward II. shewed no partiality for the Tower as a residence although he occasionally retired to it for security; and upon

that principle, in 1322, when he marched towards the borders of Wales, he placed his queen, children, and household in this fortress, during which time, the queen gave birth to a princess, who from that circumstance was named Jane of the Tower.

Upon the deposition and murder of this ill-fated monarch, his son, Edward III. was carefully secluded from public affairs, by the policy of his mother, the infamous Isabella, and her coadjutor Mortimer. But Edward soon proved himself superior to their control: he inherited the spirit of his grandsire, and this future scourge of France burst forth in thunder on his foes, and Lord Mortimer, the partner in Isabella's guilt, expiated his treasons upon the gallows. The glories of this monarch's reign, filled the Tower prisons with illustrious chiefs and princes, Scottish and French; amongst whom were David, king of Scotland, and John, king of France.

The succeeding reigns, those of Richard II. and the usurper Henry IV. afford but a melancholy contrast to that of their victorious predecessor: the accession of a minor to the throne, upon the decease of Edward, opened the flood-gate of rebellion; and a protracted scene of civil strife ensued, which threw into shade the memory of former glories; and the Tower, instead of continuing a palatine-prison of the kings, princes and nobles of foreign enemies, became crowded with the partisans of rebellion, and ultimately afforded a dungeon to the unfortunate Richard himself. In the fourth year of this unhappy reign, on the insurrection headed by Wat Tyler, the insurgents possessed themselves of this citadel, burst into the royal chambers, offering outrage to the king and his mother; seized upon the Archbishop of Canterbury, (Simon of Sudbury) dragged him to Tower-hill, where they cruelly slaughtered him. Stow thus relates the horrid deed:—“The archbishop seeing death at hand—with comfortable words, (as he was an eloquent man, and wise beyond all wise men of the realm) spake fairly to them. Lastly, after forgiveness granted to the executioner that should behead him, he kneeling down, offered his neck to him that should strike it off; being stricken in the neck, but not deadly, he putting his hand to his neck, said thus, “Aha! it is the hand of God!” He had not removed his hand from the place where the pain was, but that being suddenly stricken, his fingers' ends being cut off, and part of the arteries, he fell down, but yet he died not, until being mangled with eight strokes in the neck and in the head, he fulfilled most worthy martyrdom.”

The crown, obtained “more by force than lawful succession or election,” sat but uneasily on the head of Henry IV. and the turbulent spirit of the times, consequent upon his usurpation,

continued the Tower more a prison for those concerned in domestic strife than foreign war. We must not, however, pass over this reign without allusion to James of Scotland; who, becoming a prisoner in the Tower, was the third Scottish king confined within its walls in the course of a single century.

In the reign of Henry V. the hero of Agincourt, the Tower again became crowded with French prisoners of distinction; and many were afterwards removed to the castles of Flint, Rothlan, Conway, and other places: but nothing further of interest occurs to us, in connexion with our subject, during that reign.

Of events connected with succeeding reigns we shall speak in another part. We will now proceed on our visit to this ancient memorial of the past.

The government of this fortress is entrusted to the following officers, *viz.*—the Constable, which being regarded an office of great honour and importance, has been generally conferred on men of high rank and influence; a Lieutenant, Deputy-Lieutenant, Fort-major, Chaplain, Physician, Apothecary, Gentleman-Porter, Yeoman-Porter, Gentleman-Jailor, four Quarter Gunners, and forty Warders: as one of the warders will have to accompany the visitor, as a guide, a short account may be here introduced relative to the origin of that body. On the death of his father, Henry VIII. retired to the Tower for the sake of privacy, and for the formation of an administration; during which time he was attended by his Yeomen of the Guard. Upon his departure, he left fifteen of them in the Tower, and their name was changed to that of *Warders*: but it does not appear that they were allowed the same distinction of dress with those who attended the royal person, until the succeeding reign; for we learn, that the Duke of Somerset, (protector in the time of Edward VI.) during his first imprisonment, approving the diligence of their attendance, promised them, that if set at liberty, he would procure them the privilege of wearing “the king’s clothé, as the Yeomen of the Guard did.” Somerset obtained his liberty and kept his promise; for he caused the Warders of the Tower to be sworn extraordinary of the Guard, and to wear the same uniform, which has been continued to the present day. This office was formerly obtained by purchase; but that regulation was altered in 1826; and vacancies are now filled up from persons of subordinate rank in the army, whose good conduct has rendered them deserving of such distinction.

The visitor enters the Fortress at that point where formerly stood “the Lyons’ Gate;” so called from the court adjoining having been formerly occupied by the Royal Menagerie. It was originated by Henry III. in about 1254, for the reception of

some wild animals presented to him by foreign princes. This department was enlarged by succeeding monarchs, and considerable sums (for the period) set apart for the maintenance of its ferocious inmates. King James I. upon visiting the Tower at the commencement of his reign, entertained himself and a portion of his court with a combat between one of the lions and three dogs, one only of the latter survived the conflict: James is said to have regarded sports of this description with peculiar relish—a trait in his character which provokes contempt, when his own constitutional timidity is taken into consideration. This menagerie was at one time of considerable extent; but during the latter period of its existence, it had greatly fallen off in attraction, and its contents were, a few years back, transferred to the Zoological Gardens.

The next gate in our progress is that of the Middle Tower, which, with the gate on the farther side of the moat, (the Byward Tower) were strongly fortified, and each provided with a double port-cullis. These Towers, with all those of the Outer Ward, were increased and strengthened in the reign of Henry III. A narrow street, dividing the Outer from the Inner Ward, still retains the name of Mint-street: the houses in this street (which extends itself round the fortress) were formerly inhabited by officers employed in the ancient coinage,* but now chiefly occupied by the military, a noble structure having been erected, to the north of Little Tower-hill, for the Mint department, with houses for its respective officers.

On the left is the Bell Tower, so called from its containing the alarm-bell of the garrison. This was the prison of John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, who was imprisoned and executed on account of his refusal to acknowledge the supremacy of Henry VIII. Some idea may be formed of the rigour to which state-prisoners in this period were subjected, from a letter addressed by this venerable prelate to Secretary Cromwell:

Furthermore, (he writes) I beseech you to be a good master unto me in my necessity: for I have neither shirt nor suit, nor yet other clothes that are necessary for me to wear, but that be ragged and torn too shamefully; nevertheless, I might easily suffer that, if they would keep my body warm: but my diet also, God

* The first gold (says Howell in his *Londinopolis*) that was coined in the Tower, was in the reign of Edward III. and the pieces were called *Florences*, of the value of 6s. 8d. *Perceval de post* being master of the Mint at that time. All great sums before were used to be paid by the weight, as so many pounds or marks of silver, or so many pounds or marks of gold, but they bore no stamp: the lesser payments were in starlings, which was the only coin then current and stamp'd, which were pence so called; and they had their antiquity no further than from the reign of Henry II. Nevertheless, the Saxon coins before the Conquest, were pence of fine silver, somewhat weightier and better than the latter starlings, and the most probable reason that is given, why it was called starling money was, because in the ring or border of the penny there was a star stamped.

knows how slender it is at many times. And now in mine age, my stomach may not away but with a few kind of meats; which if I want, I decay forthwith, and fall into coughs and diseases of my body, and cannot keep myself in health. And as our Lord knoweth, I have nothing left unto me for to provide any better, but as my brother of his own purse layeth out for me to his great hindrance.—Wherefore, good master secretary, escaoons (again) I beseech you to have some pity upon me, and let me have such things as are necessary for me in mine age, &c.

Such is the affecting memorial of one represented by Erasmus to have been “a man of integrity, deep learning, sweetness of temper, and greatness of soul.” Cromwell, to his honour be it spoken, relieved the aged sufferer’s wants, as far as was consistent with his own safety under an absolute and implacable master Princess (afterwards queen) Elizabeth is said to have been imprisoned in this Tower; but the supposition is wanting in authority

Passing on, the attention is called to a water-gate on the right, and the Inner Ballium-gate on the left: the former of these objects is the Traitors’-gate, through which it was customary, for privacy, to convey state-prisoners to and from the Tower, the water of the ditch having here a communication with the Thames under a stone bridge on the Wharf. Over this water-gate is a building, terminated at each end by a round tower, on which are embrasures for pointing cannon. This building was formerly used as a military infirmary, but now converted into apartments for the soldiery: here are also water-works for supplying the garrison with water, by means of a steam-engine and water-wheel.

The building opposite to the Traitors’-gate is known by the appellation of the Bloody Tower, from a *tradition* that the two young princes, nephews of the Duke of Gloster (Richard III.) were suffocated in this part of the fortress, by the order of their unnatural uncle. In the reign of Henry VIII. it was called the Garden Tower, from its connection with the constable’s or lieutenant’s garden, which now forms part of the parade. It received its present name in the reign of Elizabeth.

Adjoining is the Record or Wakefield Tower: the lower part of this building is undoubtedly the most ancient part of the fortress, excepting the White Tower, and supposed to be a portion of the additions made by William Rufus. In this Tower are placed the ancient Records of our country: a circumstance alone investing it with an interest of too exalted character to be influenced by other considerations: we will therefore quote the words of Mr. Bayley, an erudite writer upon this subject, and pass on: “From the sources here laid open, the laws, the history, and the constitution of the kingdom, are daily receiving elucidation; and to the antiquary, the topographer, the genealogist, and to the nation in general, an inexhaustible mine of information is discovered which before had lain buried in obscurity.”

Upon passing through the gateway of the Bloody Tower, we view the spot formerly occupied by the GRAND STOREHOUSE, which was destroyed by fire on Saturday, October 30, 1841.

This building, commenced in the reign of James II. and completed in that of William and Mary, was 345 feet in length and 60 feet in width. The ground floor was occupied by the TRAIN OF ARTILLERY, and the upper part appropriated to the SMALL ARMORY. The former contained a collection of cannon of various periods, nations, and *calibre*—many of them commemorative of England's proudest glories, and altogether formed an interesting and beautiful illustration of the progress of gunnery. Several pieces are still in good condition, others are partially injured, and many of course are lost: the remains are exhibited to the public; and we understand, that orders have been issued that those pieces which are injured or broken, be sent to Woolwich, where models will be taken, and the same metal re-cast into its original forms.

The SMALL ARMORY, of which comparatively little was saved, consisted chiefly, as its name implies, of stores of small arms; but there were many curiosities deposited in that room which have been destroyed: amongst those saved, is a Brass Gun that formerly belonged to the Knights of Malta; it is finely ornamented and of exquisite workmanship: captured by the French, and taken from them by the English, in 1798. Also two Brass Guns, highly decorated; presented to the young Duke of Gloucester, son of Queen Anne: one uninjured, the other much defaced. The Sword and Sash of the late Duke of York are also preserved.

It fortunately happened, that at the above time the number of arms in this depository was considerably under the usual average: the following is said to be a correct statement of loss sustained. The number of percussion muskets destroyed 11,000, with 26,000 bayonets; flint-locks, 22,000; percussion-locks, 7000; pistols, 12,158; 75 double-barrelled pistols with moveable butts; 1376 swords; 2271 sword-blades; 2026 plug-bayonets; 192 spears; 95 pikes; 210 musquetoons; 709 carbines; 3 wall-pieces; 279 cuirasses; 276 helmets, and 52 drums. Amongst the relics destroyed, was a military trophy, erected under the direction of Mr. Stacey, keeper of the stores in the Armory, consisting of Chinese arms, &c. taken by the British troops at the capture of Chusan: this addition was made two days previous to the fire.

Immediately in front of these ruins is the White Tower; at the south-west corner of which, is the entrance to

THE HORSE ARMORY.

This room was erected for the purpose to which it is appropriated, in 1826: its extent is 150 feet in length, and 33 in width

A line of equestrian figures occupies the centre, (a circumstance from which this armory derives its name) and forms a most interesting exhibition of the Armour used in different periods of history. Placed over the head of each figure, is a banner bearing the rank and date of the personage represented. On either side of the room are figures in armour, interspersed with military trophies, &c. The ceiling is also decorated in a tasteful manner with arms and accoutrements, fancifully arranged. In a recess in the centre of the south wall, is placed a magnificent equestrian suit of armour, presented to Henry VIII. by Maximilian, emperor of Germany, on occasion of Henry's union with Katherine of Arragon, which may in every point rank as the finest specimen extant: it is embellished with engravings of legends of saints, devices, mottoes, arms, &c. the legends are singularly illustrative of ancient costume and manners. The entire mass of armour was formerly gilt; and we understand that ideas are entertained of re-gilding it.* In the same recess are two small figures, representing the princes Henry and Charles, sons of Charles I. both clad in suits that really belonged to them. An inscription is also placed here commemorative of the present arrangement of this Armory by Sir S. Meyrick. Against the walls and along the cornice, are placed a variety of ancient halberds, shields, cuirasses, &c. The two vestibules, one at each extremity of the building, exhibit a collection of arms, offensive and defensive, of various periods. Against the centre of the north wall, is an equestrian figure, an Asiatic suit of great antiquity; also helmets, shields, &c. also of various periods. At each end of the room are placed other mounted figures.

We will now commence a brief account of this line of equestrian figures, in order as they stand. But although we shall occasionally notice events connected with the history of the monarchs, &c. represented; yet it is desirable that the reader should bear in mind, that the generality of the suits are not those which were actually worn by the party alluded to, but chiefly indicative of the armour used in that age: identified suits we shall point out.

EDWARD I. 1272.—The suit of armour associated with this monarch's name, consists of a hauberk, with sleeves and chausses, and a hood with camail, or the piece of mail hanging over the shoulders, and supposed to have been, with the mail, of Asiatic

* An interesting account of this suit by Sir S. Meyrick, has been published in the "Archæologia." Mr. Hewitt has also given an elaborate account of this and other matters connected with the Armories, in his entertaining and cleverly illustrated work, "The Tower:" we beg to acknowledge the pleasure and assistance we have derived from its pages, and at the same time confidently recommend it to the perusal of those who seek to inform themselves, at a very easy rate, upon the History of the Armories.

origin, in the time of the Crusades. The spurs are of the kind called prick-spurs, more ancient than those with rowels; but the latter were used at this period, having been introduced in the time of Henry III. The Norman kite-shaped shield, was in this reign superseded by the square-topped kind borne by the figure.

During the reign of Edward I. the Tower was chiefly used as a state-prison; and the turbulent and warlike spirit of the time, kept it as such in perpetual occupation. In 1282, the Jews, under a charge of having clipped and deteriorated the current coin, were seized in all parts of the kingdom, and six hundred of that unhappy race were thrown into the Tower. At the battle of Dunbar, (1296) the Scottish king Baliol, and a number of his most influential nobility, were taken prisoners, and committed to the Tower: the unfortunate monarch, after nearly three years incarceration within its walls, was released at the intercession of the Pope, and ultimately submitted to an inglorious but peaceful banishment in France. But we have here to notice the fate of a more illustrious individual: in 1305, the celebrated hero of Scotland, and defender of its liberties—WILLIAM WALLACE, became an inmate of the Tower of London. The noble patriot, after a pretended trial, was dragged, tied to horses' tails, through Cheapside to Smithfield, and there executed with cruelties which we will not detail. The deed left an eternal stain on Edward's glory, and stands forth in dark and barbarous contrast to the chivalrous generosity of his great-grandson as a royal victor.

HENRY VI. 1450.—A great space intervenes in the history of armour between these two reigns; but upon this particular our limits will not allow us to dwell. The back and breast plates of this suit are of the flexible kind introduced in the reign of Henry V. The sleeves and skirt are of chain mail; the gauntlets are fluted. Tuilles, (small tile-like pieces of steel) an invention of the age, are appended to the breast-plate where it joins the cuisses, or coverings for the thighs. The lower part of the leg is defended by jambs, and the feet by pointed sollerets: the helmet is a salade with a frontlet, surmounted by a crest: in the right hand is a pole-axe. The horse is caparisoned with housings emblazoned with the arms of France and England (modern): its head is defended by a fluted chanfron.

In this reign, the Tower was thickly tenanted by prisoners, French, Scotch, and English: many great names are found amongst the prisoners of this period, but few circumstances relative to them have been handed down to us. The most striking events in connection with our subject, relate to the hard fortunes of the ill-fated Henry himself—who, unable to contend with the evil times in which he lived, became the mere tool and victim of contending parties. A considerable portion of his unhappy reign was spent in imprisonment, and his murdered body was discovered one morning in his “prison-lodging.” The foul deed was ascribed to the Duke of Gloster (Rich. III.) but the affair is involved in mystery. For much information on this and other matters, we refer the reader to Mr. Bayley's History.

EDWARD IV. 1465. The representative of this gay and gallant monarch appears in an elegant suit, furnished with most of the additional pieces used in the tournament; for the armour used in the lists was stronger and more complete than that made for warfare. The figure is armed with a tilting-lance; the vamplate or guard of which, is curiously formed and ancient; the

shaft is modern. The saddle, though of more recent date, is a fine specimen of the war-saddle. The horse is in a housing, powdered with the king's badges, the white rose and crown.

The Tower, in some portions of this monarch's reign, assumed its palatine character; for we learn that Edward occasionally held his court there in great splendor; and made it the starting-point not only of his own coronation procession, but that of his queen, Lady Elizabeth Gray. But in this reign also, the Tower became the scene of a dark event which, like the death of Henry VI. has gathered interest from the mystery that surrounds it: we allude to the imprisonment and end of the Duke of Clarence, the king's brother, who in that part of the Tower called the Bowyer's Tower, is reputed to have met his death by drowning in a malmsey-butt. The circumstances of this prince's fate, rival in atrocity all Edward's cruelties.

KNIGHT OF THE TIME OF RICHARD III.—This suit is of the kind called *ribbed*, and worthy of the age in which armour had arrived at its greatest state of perfection. The helmet is a salade supplied with oreilles or ear-guards; in front of the shoulders are two pieces called rondelles, for protection of the arm-pits: altogether this suit is a most beautiful specimen, and merits a more particular account than our plan will admit of. On the floor is to be seen the "Tilting-appareil" of the suit; and on the pillar behind is an original Tilting-lance with ferrule, ring, and vamplate, wanting the coronal or blunt head. The above suit was purchased at the sale of armour used in the Eglintoun Tournament

Upon the death of Edward IV. his son, then 12 years of age, was proclaimed by the title of Edward V. but did not receive the crown, or exercise any of the functions of royalty—his brief reign commenced and ended in the Tower. The generally accredited murder of the young princes, and the impeachment and revolting execution of Lord Hastings, are events that we need but name in connection with our subject—Shakspeare, the charming (though somewhat doubtful) medium through which many study the history of their country, has recorded them in language that will endure for ages. Who has not heard of the unhappy Jane Shore?—in the preceding reign, the guilty mistress of a libertine monarch; in the next, a prisoner in the Tower; from which she was released, only to close the miserable remainder of her days in beggary and starvation. The crown for which Richard had so deeply "fil'd his mind," proved but an empty possession; his throne, established in blood, led to a bloody grave: he was slain on Bosworth field, after a brief and iniquitous reign of little more than two years.

KNIGHT OF THE TIME OF HENRY VII.—Fluted armour, of which this is a suit, was introduced about this period. The tabard, or outer garment which succeeded the surcoat of the Normans, was now laid aside, in order that the costliness of the suit might be seen to greater advantage. The helmet is of the kind called Burgonet, (Burgundian origin) following the form of the head, and found to be so much more commodious than those formerly used, that it contiued to be worn, with slight modifications, until body armour was discontinued.

ANOTHER SUIT of the same time and of a similar kind is also exhibited. In the right hand of the figure is an ancient sword, and from the bow of the saddle hangs a battle-axe of the war kind

armed with steel front and cantle. The horse-armour is also fluted, but of a different pattern to the man's; exhibiting all the pieces in a suit of plate, with the exception of the Flanchards, the piece worn over the flanks. At this period the use of fire-arms became prevalent amongst the soldiery.

Upon the marriage between Henry VII. and the Princess Elizabeth, which was to "unite the white rose with the red," the Tower again appears in its character of a royal palace: for we learn, that two days before that appointed for her coronation, (Nov. 25, 1487) "the queen with her ladies and other estates, came from Greenwich to the Tower of London, where she was received by the king," and led to state-apartments, where their majesties "kept open household and frank resort" for all the court: from thence they proceeded to Westminster, where her majesty was crowned with due solemnity. In May, 1501, the king held a grand tournament in the Tower; in little more than one year from this festivity, a scene of far different character ensued within these walls—the deathbed of a queen: during the royal residence in the Tower, the queen died, giving birth to a daughter, which did not long survive her. The unhappy consequences of a protracted civil contention were apparent during this reign: for although Henry kept a vigilant guard over the prerogatives of the crown,—yet the fierce struggles of a scarcely subdued party, and the extraordinary, though brief, success of a romantic impostor, afforded a constant supply of Tower prisoners; and often were the "prison lodgings" untenanted by an exchange for the scaffold. In this reign the Earl of Warwick, (son of the ill-fated Clarence) and Sir William Stanley, one of Henry's foremost supporters, fell victims to the cruel policy of the times; Perkin Warbeck also, the fruitful source of so much strife, closed his adventurous career upon the scaffold at Tyburn. In this reign, Sir James Tyrrel was executed upon Tower-hill for treason: this individual has been immortalized as the infamous agent of Richard III. in his murder of the young princes while in the Tower: but the treason for which Tyrrel suffered, had no reference to that ruthless deed; nor does it appear that his last confession threw any additional light upon the subject.

HENRY VIII. 1520.—We now come to a suit which actually belonged to the monarch whose name is placed over it. This armour is damasked, and consists of tilting-helmet, back and breast plates with placate, garde-de-reins, pauldrons with passe-gardes, rere and vam-braces, gauntlets, (that on the right hand being fixed, the left for tilting) tassets, demi-cuisses with genouillères, jambes, and square-toed sollerets. A martel-de-fer is in the right hand; a short sword is worn at the saddle-bow, and a long one from the waist. The horse-armour and body-armour are not of the same pattern: the stirrups are remarkably large.

In the eighteenth year of his age, Henry VIII. was called to the sovereignty of this kingdom: at that time he manifested a generous temper with an elegant and munificent mind. Under the auspices of this youthful monarch, the hitherto frowning character of our ancient fortress appeared to be clearing off for a more cheerful aspect; as we are informed, that in the commencement of his reign he invested the Tower with a new degree of splendour. How fearfully those fair hopes were destroyed, history too faithfully records. Never had the Tower contained a greater number of illustrious names amongst its unhappy prisoners—never was the headsman's office more recklessly called into requisition, than during this reign of terror—the scaffold and the block reeked with blood! Amongst the nobles who suffered in this reign, was Edward Bohun, Duke of Buckingham, Lord High Constable of England, who in consequence of his high descent, and some incautious expressions on his part, was charged with treason, tried and executed. We have also to name the intrepid Chancellor of England, Sir Thomas More who

refusing to acknowledge the king's supremacy, suffered imprisonment in the Tower, previous to his execution. Imprisonment and death appear to have had but little terror in them for the witty writer of Utopia: he endured one and went forth to meet the other, with a fearlessness that fully shewed the superiority of his nature to all that earthly power could inflict. Upon his entrance to the Tower, he conversed with his accustomed pleasantry and humour; and it is related, that when the porter, according to custom, demanded his *upper* garment, "Marry, friend! here it is," said the facetious prisoner, tendering his cap, "I am sorry it is not better for your sake." "Nay, sir," said the porter, "I must have your gown." The grim functionary was satisfied with equal good humour. The lieutenant, who had formerly received some benefits from him, commenced an apology for the rigour he should be compelled to exercise towards him; but was interrupted with—"Mr. Lieutenant, whenever I find fault with the entertainment you provide for me, do you turn me out of doors." After an imprisonment of more than a year, during which he was even deprived of the intellectual solace of his books, he was brought to trial, declared guilty, and condemned to a traitor's death. He heard his sentence with manly composure, and expressed a Christian hope that himself and those consenting to his death, might "meet together in everlasting love and happiness." Much sharper to him must have been the trial that succeeded: on his return from Westminster to the Tower, his favorite daughter Margaret (Mrs. Roper) had stationed herself at the Tower-wharf, where he had to pass: but as the melancholy procession approached, the edge of the fatal axe turned towards the illustrious condemned, her feelings could not be controlled: regardless of all, she burst through the crowd and the guards who surrounded her heroic parent—she clung to his neck—and long must her agonized cry of "My father! O, my father!" have rung in the ears of those who heard it: he sought to comfort, and he blessed her. This great man met death as a friend, on the 6th of July, 1536.

We have already alluded to his fellow-sufferer, Bishop Fisher, who was executed on the 22nd of the preceding month.

It was on May-day in the year 1536, that the king, his queen, and the whole of the court were attending a tournament at Greenwich, when the king suddenly and unaccountably departed, with only six attendants, for Westminster. A council was convened that night, and on the following morning, the queen, (Ann Boleyn) her brother, Lord Rochford, together with others, were committed to the Tower—the scene, scarcely three years back, of all the splendour and triumph that could be devised to gratify that beautiful but now unhappy queen. The sequel needs no detail: two days after the headsman had released Henry from this tie, the brutal monarch married Jane Seymour.—The high court favor of Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, and promoter of the protestant cause, terminated in the Tower and on the scaffold.—We must not dismiss this period without allusion to the dreadful fate of the Countess of Salisbury, the last (of whole blood) of the royal line of Plantagenet, who after a close imprisonment in the Tower, under pretence of having favored the popish party, was (1541) without trial, conducted to the fatal green—the place of execution. The venerable and spirited lady refused to place her head on the block, declaring that she was no traitress. The executioner actually followed her round the platform, striking at her hoary head until she fell—in the 70th year of her age!—Henry married six wives: after living twenty years with the first, he put her away upon a pretended scruple of conscience. Upon the fate of his second, we have already touched: Jane Seymour, the third, died in child-bed the year following that of her marriage: the fourth, Anne of Cleves, he divorced: Katherine Howard, the fifth, was beheaded on a charge of incontinency: but the sixth, Katherine Parr, outlived him; he died Jan. 28, 1547, in the 56th year of his age, and the 38th of his reign.

CHARLES BRANDON, DUKE OF SUFFOLK, 1520, and EDWARD CLINTON, EARL OF LINCOLN, 1530.—These suits so closely resemble the preceding, as to need no particular description.

EDWARD VI. 1552.—This is a very beautiful suit of *russet* armour: the peculiarity of its appearance is produced by oxydising

the metal and then smoothing its surface. The horse-armour is a complete suit and worthy of attention: it is embossed, and embellished with the badges of Burgundy and Granada.

Edward VI. succeeded his father at the tender age of nine years. By the late monarch's will, sixteen executors were appointed for the government of the king and kingdom during Edward's minority, and the Duke of Somerset placed at their head as Protector. Somerset was possessed of good qualities, which rendered him deservedly popular: his zeal, however, for the protestant cause, and a station that made him an object of perpetual jealousy, raised him a host of enemies, to whose combined machinations he at length fell a victim. He was twice a Tower-prisoner: the first time he was unexpectedly liberated; but his second imprisonment terminated on the scaffold. The principal of Somerset's enemies was Dudley, Earl of Warwick (afterwards Duke of Northumberland.) This ambitious and unprincipled man had long directed his views to the highest offices of the state, and the course of his ambition involved many in ruin. The most illustrious of these victims will long excite interest and sympathy—the unfortunate Lady Jane Grey; who yielding to his selfish importunity, suffered herself, upon Edward's decease, to be proclaimed as queen; a measure which caused her death and that of her husband—both suffered in one day upon the fatal green! The "ill-weav'd ambition" of Northumberland led him to the same fate—he also perished on the scaffold.

FRANCIS HASTINGS, EARL OF HUNTINGDON, 1555, *temp. Mary.* This is a suit of plate armour richly gilt. The weight of the body armour is upwards of 100 lbs. of which the helmet weighs 14 lbs.

Upon the accession of Mary, the Bishops Gardiner, Day, and Tonstal, with the Dutchess of Somerset (all imprisoned in the preceding reign) were released from the Tower, but were too quickly succeeded by others. We have already alluded to the fate of Lady Jane Grey; indeed, it has been supposed that the queen had originally no intention of extreme measures in this case; but that the Wyat rebellion was adduced as an argument in favor of the cruel policy ultimately adopted: Bishop Gardiner and Cardinal Pole are said to have been the principal advocates for those violent proceedings. The prisons in the Tower during this reign were occupied chiefly by those attached to the protestant cause: offences against the royal person appear to have been less regarded in Mary's time, than those which arose from differences upon religious points; and future martyrs tenanted these gloomy dungeons, and endured the sharp trials of the torture-chamber, preparatory to their final immolation. The fierce persecution in this reign needs no detail.

ROBERT DUDLEY, EARL OF LEICESTER, 1560, *temp. Eliz.* This splendid tournament suit is allowed, beyond doubt, to have belonged to the celebrated court favourite whose name is attached to it; originally it was gilt: the square-toed solleret is abandoned, and the round-toed is adopted. This suit weighs about 87 lbs.

SIR HENRY LEA, 1570.—He was Champion to queen Elizabeth and Master of the Armories. The suit in which he is represented has nothing to distinguish it from others already noticed.

ROBERT DEVEREUX, EARL OF ESSEX, 1581, *temp. Eliz.* This suit is richly engraved and gilt, and was worn by the champion at the coronation of George II. The bridle is remarkable for the length of the cheeks of the bit.

The period now represented is one of peculiar interest in connexion with the Tower. Its annals have hitherto been chiefly characteristic of the frailty of human greatness—striking illustrations of absolute monarchy, which occasioned an almost-certain transition from the court to the prison—from the prison to the scaffold.

Different is the mutability that now presents itself: a former captive in this gloomy fortress is called to the sovereignty of these realms; and ELIZABETH, over whose head the fatal sword had been so long suspended, on the 17th of Nov. 1558, amid the unfeigned acclamations of a people exhausted with religious persecution, commenced her long and glorious, although not unsullied, reign.

This princess had been somewhat roughly trained in the school of adversity. Upon the Wyat rebellion, (the cause and pretext of a torrent of disgrace and ruin) Elizabeth was compelled by court messengers to rise from a bed of sickness at 10 o'clock at night, and accompany them from her residence at Ashbridge, in Hertfordshire, to London. Upon arriving at Whitehall, she was shut up a close prisoner for nearly a fortnight: she was then informed by Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester, that it was the queen's will and pleasure that she should go to the Tower, under suspicion of having been concerned in the Wyat rebellion. In vain did the unhappy princess protest her innocence; the order was irrevocable, and all hope seemed to be excluded. When she arrived at that dismal entrance called the Traitor's Gate, Elizabeth recoiled at the idea of such a landing-place; but upon a rough intimation that she had no power to choose, she exclaimed, placing her foot upon the step, "Here landeth as true a subject, being a prisoner, as ever landed at these stairs; and before thee, O God, I speak it, having none other friends than thee!" Her imprisonment was of a severe description; for a whole month she was shut up, without the liberty of passing the threshold of her prison; and even when this rigor was abated, and she was permitted to take the air in the queen's gardens, a guard regularly attended her; she was also subjected to a disgraceful system of *espionage*, and the celebration of mass frequently obtruded upon her.

These circumstances were remembered by Elizabeth upon her first visit to the Tower after her accession; and she is said to have raised her voice in thanksgiving to the Almighty for his interference in her behalf—a deliverance that she compared to that of Daniel from the lions' den. Alas! that the historian should have to record, "that the RACK seldom stood idle in the Tower for all the latter part of Elizabeth's reign."* Although on Mary's death, the protestants were freed from the hot persecution to which they had been subjected, yet we cannot but regret to learn, that severities equally unjustifiable were in turn retaliated upon the Roman catholics, whose determined opposition to the reformed religion filled the dungeons of this fortress with prisoners; and it is recorded that tortures of the most revolting character were resorted to: "some persons were confined in a dungeon twenty feet below the surface of the earth; others in the 'Litel-ease,' where they had neither room to stand upright nor to lie down at full length. Some were put to the rack, or placed in the 'Scavenger's daughter,' (*Scavengeri filia*) an iron instrument, by which their head, hands, and feet were bound together. Many were chained and fettered, whilst others, still more unfortunate, had their hands forced into iron gloves, which were much too small, or were subjected to the horrid torture of the boot."[†] The persecuting spirit of the age evidences too well the justice of this charge. It is true, that printed Declarations were issued at the time, denying the *immoderate* use of torture in state examinations; but the miserable excuses contained in these documents, feebly advocate the humanity of the age. Religious persecution, the actual and alleged conspiracies against the government and life of Elizabeth, together with the unhappy affairs of Mary, queen of Scots, swell the dark catalogue of those who pined and bled, to an extent which our limits forbid us to enumerate. The innocence or guilt of the ill-fated Mary of Scotland, is a question which does not come within our province to discuss; but it must be generally agreed, that Elizabeth would have acted with greater royalty had she been more merciful in that case. Taught, however, as she had been, in the school of affliction, it seldom appears that "the sorrowful sighing of the prisoner" melted her heart. The natural firmness of her disposition certainly added dignity to the queenly character, and is remembered with respect when the glories of her reign are recorded;—but on the other hand, to those who incurred her wrath or excited her jealousy, she manifested an obduracy which shut out all hope of mercy—a feature in Elizabeth's character which dimmed the lustre of her name.

* Hallam † Britton and Brayley's Memoirs of the Tower, p. 119.

Amongst those confined within this fortress during the reign we speak of, were the Archbishop of York, the Bishops of Ely, Lincoln, Worcester, Exeter, and Bath, with Dr. Fecknam, the former Abbot of Westminster, and other church dignitaries, who were deprived, and endured a protracted imprisonment on account of their refusal to acknowledge the queen's supremacy. We also find the name of Lady Catherine Grey (sister of the ill-fated Lady Jane) in the list of Tower prisoners. Under pretext of having married without the royal assent, this lady and her husband, the Earl of Hertford, were committed to the Tower, and placed in separate apartments. The unhappy Catherine, after a long illness, during which her husband was forbidden to see her, died in captivity; and the earl was not only heavily fined, but endured nine years imprisonment: the severity exercised in this case is attributed to Lady Catherine's affinity to the crown—a circumstance which is said to have kept up a spirit of jealousy and apprehension in Elizabeth's mind. We can but mention the names of the Earl of Lenox with his Countess, Arthur and Edmund Pole, Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, the Earls of Arundel and Southampton, Lords Lumley and Cobham, who with a multitude of others suffered in this reign. In 1592, Sir Walter Rawleigh, who had long basked in the sunshine of court favour, incurred the royal displeasure by an amour with the beautiful Elizabeth Throckmorton, and was consequently committed to the Tower: his imprisonment, however, was but of short duration, and subsequently the church consecrated the love for which he had suffered: but the means through which he regained his liberty are strangely at variance with the great character of one so justly celebrated. Seeing from his prison-window the queen's barge pass by, he burst forth into a well feigned fit of madness: in his ravings he intreated of the governor that he might be allowed to go forth in disguise and to ease his mind with but a sight of his royal mistress—a request of course too extraordinary to be granted. A struggle ensued—the jailor's new periwig was torn from his head and daggers were drawn; at which critical point the belligerents were separated, without further injury than a smart rap of the knuckles sustained by the good-natured Sir Arthur Gorges who had thus seasonably interfered. Due care was taken that this entertaining piece of Tower theatricals should find its way to the royal ear; which, followed up by a characteristic epistle, procured his pardon from Elizabeth, to whom the grossest adulation was acceptable. "My heart (writes Sir Walter) was never broken till this day, that I hear the queen goes away so far off, whom I have followed so many years with so great love and desire in so many journeys, and am now left behind her in a dark prison, all alone. While she was yet near at hand, that I might hear of her once in two or three days, my sorrows were the less, but even now my heart is cast into the depth of all misery. I—that was wont to behold her riding like Alexander, hunting like Diana, walking like Venus, the gentle wind blowing her fair hair about her pure face like a nymph, sometime sitting in the shade like a goddess, sometime singing like an angel, sometime playing like Orpheus. Behold the sorrow of this world! once amiss hath bereaved me of all! &c." Modern and less courtly lovers may smile at this glowing rhapsody upon "the bright Angelica"—the virgin queen of sixty. The whole of the above event stands as a scene of comedy amid the general gloom of Tower history.

The fate of Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, and the romantic circumstances in connection with it, are too generally known to require recital in the present case. The execution of this once favored nobleman, which took place in Feb. 1601, is commonly supposed to have darkened the remaining days of Elizabeth—in March, 1603, she departed in sorrow to the grave.

The progress of our task has naturally led to the darker shades of Britain's annals; for the chronicles of the Tower of London have but a gloomy affinity to the brilliancy of courts, and refer but little to those points of the human character which constitute the true nobility of man: and it is a humiliating fact, that the events we have just touched upon should have been contemporary with a ministry unrivalled in Europe for its wisdom; a court celebrated for its magnificence; and an age which has handed down to posterity a rich treasure of undying intellect. But the English court in this and preceding reigns, was a truly perilous position to occupy: the wrath of kings and the conflicting interests of the ambitious, in too many instances hurled the hapless court luminary from his sphere,—and the course which was begun in the palace, led to the Tower, and ended on the scaffold.

JAMES I. 1605.—This monarch is represented in a plain suit of tilting armour: the *burdon*, or lance for running at the ring, with which the figure is armed, possesses a formidable appearance, being 14 feet long, and 2 feet 3 in circumference; but the handles of these lances were made hollow, and convey the idea of a weight which they do not in reality possess.

Shortly after the accession of James, Lord Cobham, George Brooke, his brother, Lord Thomas Grey, of Wilton, Sir Griffin Markham, Anthony Copley, and two Romish priests were charged with a plot against the king, in favor of the Lady Arabella Stuart. In this matter Sir Walter Rawleigh was involved, and with the rest he was committed to the Tower; but as the plague was then raging in London, (1603) the trial took place at Winchester. After the arraignment and conviction of Brooke, Markham, Copley, and the two priests, Sir Walter was placed at the bar: upon a trial in which even the appearance of justice was disregarded, and enduring from the attorney-general a torrent of low invective and abuse, disgraceful to the name of Sir Edward Coke—the illustrious prisoner was declared guilty, and sentenced to die; but being left to the royal mercy, he was imprisoned in the Tower. After a confinement of upwards of twelve years, he was set at liberty, and placed at the head of an expedition to Guiana, which had for its object a search for mines: but the project failed, and James was at that time eagerly seeking an alliance between his son (Prince Charles) and a daughter of the king of Spain. These circumstances afforded Gondamor, the Spanish ambassador, opportunities for lowering Raleigh in the estimation of the king, and thus avenging those chastisements which had been inflicted by that warrior upon the insolence of Spain. This object succeeded too well; the king was weak and mean enough to issue a proclamation expressive of his disapproval of the Guiana expedition, and Sir Walter was seized immediately upon his landing, and again thrown into the Tower, where he was deprived of the privileges allowed in his former imprisonment, and placed in what was at that time one of the most wretched dungeons in the fortress. After two months confinement, he was abruptly informed that the king had ordered his execution: five days afterwards (29 Oct. 1618) he was beheaded at Westminster.

Such was the end of the once light-hearted knight of the cloak—celebrated as a warrior, statesman, and historian. His “History of the World” (or that portion of it extant) is a work of deep research for the age in which it was written, and has been deemed a literary phenomenon even by modern philosophers. The greatness of the undertaking, and the extensive variety of information which it unfolds, may be accounted for, in some measure, when we consider that it is the result of a captivity of nearly thirteen years duration—a noble monument of the independent freedom of mind amid the darkness of external circumstances—a work that may justly rank amongst the sweetest fruits of adversity. But another, and somewhat curious fact may be adduced, in connection with the book we speak of: during his imprisonment, Rawleigh was surrounded by the *elite* of that age in literature and science. The Earl of Northumberland, a munificent patron of learning, suffered a long imprisonment in this reign; Thomas Allen, whose name will long be known in the “Bibliotheca Alleniana”; Dr. Dee, termed by D’Israeli “the Sir David Brewster of his day,” whose labours, in that infant age of science, were associated with necromancy; Dr. Harriot, the celebrated algebraist; Dr. Warner, who is supposed to have suggested to Harvey the circulation of the blood; Robert Hay, eminent for his treatise on the globes—with many other literati of that period, were amongst the imprisoned acquaintance of Sir Walter, and probably enriched, from their respective intellectual treasures, the learned dissertations on History upon which he was at that time engaged.

On the 5th of November, 1605, a conspiracy was discovered with which all are acquainted—the Gunpowder Plot, and the Tower was the prison of those concerned in that desperate affair. They were tried at Westminster on the 27th Jan. 1606, found guilty, and executed with all the horrid barbarities attached to the sentence on treason. Implicated in this plot, we find amongst others, Henry, Earl of Northumberland, (named above) Lords Mordaunt and Stourton, with three Jesuit priests, Arne, Oldcorn, and Garrard: the noblemen were heavily fined and imprisoned

during the king's pleasure. The priests were also imprisoned and subjected to revolting tortures: Garnet and Oldcorn were executed; Garrard escaped to Rome.

In 1614, finding the commons hostile to his son's marriage with a popish princess, James abruptly dissolved the parliament, called several of its members before the lords of the council, and committed Sir Walter Chute, John Hoakins, Wentworth and Christopher Nevill to the Tower.—Amongst other persons of note committed in this reign, were Sir Thomas Overbury and the wretches concerned in his murder; also Lord Clifton, Sir Thomas Lake, the Earl and Countess of Suffolk, the Earl of Arundel, the great Lord Chancellor Bacon, and Sir Edward Coke.

We cannot conclude our notes upon this reign without a word or two concerning the Lady Arabella Stuart, whose name we have before mentioned in connexion with an alledged plot (by Raleigh and others) to place her on the throne. She was so far identified in the matter as to incur thereby a short imprisonment; her innocence, however, of any participation in such a conspiracy, was apparent to all parties. "She enjoyed afterwards (says Hallam) a pension from the king, and might have died in peace and obscurity, had she not conceived an unhappy attachment for Mr. Seymour—grandson of that Earl of Hertford, himself so memorable an example of the perils of ambitious love. They were privately married; but on the fact transpiring, the council, who saw with jealous eyes the possible union of two dormant pretensions to the crown, committed them to the Tower. They both made their escape, but Arabella was arrested, and brought back. Long and hopeless calamity broke down her mind; imploring in vain the just privileges of an Englishwoman, and nearly in want of necessaries, she died in prison and in a state of lunacy, some years afterwards!"

SIR HORACE VERE, Captain General, 1606, and THOMAS HOWARD, EARL OF ARUNDEL, 1608.—Two suits of cap-a-pie armour: each figure is armed with a mace.

HENRY, PRINCE OF WALES, 1612.—This is a richly engraved and gilt suit of armour made for this prince, (the son of James I.) It is adorned with representations of battles, sieges, and other military subjects. A rapier is placed in the right hand.

GEORGE VILLIERS, DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM, 1618.—A full suit of plate armour. In the left hand of this figure is placed a wheel-lock petronel, and in its right the spanner, or instrument to wind up the spring.

CHARLES, PRINCE OF WALES, (son of James I.) 1602.—This suit was made for the prince when apparently about twelve years of age. In the right hand is a rapier, with a beautifully perforated steel hilt.

THOMAS WENTWORTH, EARL OF STRAFFORD, 1635.—In this suit, the armour is continued no lower than the knees: the place of the jamb and sollerets are supplied with boots of buff leather.

CHARLES I. 1640.—This magnificent suit of armour was presented to the monarch whose name is placed over it, by the Armourers' Company of the City of London: it is richly gilt, and its entire surface ornamented with arabesque work. At this period, the use of armour was rapidly giving way to the advance of fire-arms.

We now approach a period of peculiar turbulence, attended by circumstances which cannot be reflected upon without pain—torrents of blood poured forth in civil strife, and the violent death of an English monarch at the hands of his subjects

Although this unhappy reign abounded in Tower committals, we must be brief: for if our limits would allow a catalogue of those who suffered in that protracted struggle, it would be but of an uninteresting nature to general readers; and to attempt a recital of principal events connected with such a list, would involve much matter and remark foreign to the purpose and character of our task: it must suffice, therefore, for us to observe, that during this great political tempest the Tower became alternately a prison for leaders both of the royal and parliamentary party: for detail upon this subject, we refer our readers to English history.

In 1628, the Duke of Buckingham was assassinated, and the Tower was the prison of Felton, the murderer. He was examined by the privy council, but could not be brought to implicate others in the crime; the council then, by the king's direction, sent to the judges for their opinion upon the legality of putting the prisoner to the rack: an answer was returned in the negative—the first instance we have had to relate, of the interference of the LAW between the prisoner and the torture-chamber.* He was condemned to be hung in chains.

Amongst those who suffered in this turbulent period, was Henry Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, who after about five months imprisonment, was taken from this fortress to Tower-hill, where he met his death with Christian heroism.

Soon after this, we find the statesman succeeded in fate by a churchman equally celebrated, Archbishop Laud. After a long and painful imprisonment of nearly three years, this prelate was placed at the bar of the House of Lords: the articles of his impeachment charged him generally with treason, and other crimes and misdemeanors. Serjeant Wilde, who opened the proceedings against him, was compelled to acknowledge that no one crime of the Archbishop's amounted to treason or felony; but argued that his accumulated offences "did make many grand treasons." To which Mr. Hearne, the archbishop's counsel, replied—"I crave your mercy, good Mr. Serjeant, I never understood before this, that two hundred couple of rabbits make one black horse." After a trial which lasted twenty days, during which no evidence could be elicited to prove him guilty, the opinion of the judges was taken, who declared "that nothing charged against him was treason by any known and established law of the land." The commons now changed their impeachment into an ordinance for his execution—an ordinance finally passed on the 4th of January, 1644, and by authority of which the unfortunate prelate was beheaded on the 10th of the same month. Thus died Archbishop Laud—whose faults can never extenuate the disgrace that attaches itself to the party by whose injustice he fell.

Nothing occurs to us requiring particular detail during the period of the Protectorate: the apartments of this dreadful prison, however, were thickly tenanted by those who remained faithful to the royal cause.

On the morning of the 23rd of April, 1661, the Tower presented an appearance of unusual splendour—it was the day appointed for the coronation of the restored monarch, Charles II.; and at an early hour, "the merry monarch" came thither by water, making this ancient palace the starting point of his coronation procession:

* "The trial by rack (says Blackstone in his *Commentaries*) is utterly unknown to the law of England; though once, when the Dukes of Exeter and Suffolk, and other ministers of Henry VI. had laid a design to introduce the civil law into this kingdom as the rule of government; for a beginning thereof, they erected a rack for torture, which was called in derision the Duke of Exeter's Daughter, and still remains in the Tower of London, where it was occasionally used as an engine of state, not of law, more than once, in the reign of queen Elizabeth." After quoting the case of Felton, the learned judge wisely observes—"It seems astonishing, that this usage of administering the torture, should be said to arise from a tenderness to the lives of men; and yet this is the reason given for its introduction in the civil law, and its subsequent adoption by the French and other foreign nations—viz. because the laws cannot endure that any man should die upon the evidence of a false, or even a single witness; and therefore contrived this method, that innocence should manifest itself by a stout denial, or guilt by a plain confession. Thus rating a man's virtue by the hardness of his constitution, and his guilt by the sensibility of his nerves!" (Vol. iv. p. 326—8vo. ed. 1791.)

it seemed, indeed, a day of revived glory with the old fortress—that day past, and its character as a palace appears to have faded for ever. Not so, however, with its occupation as a prison. The royalists now retaliated the persecution under which they had formerly groaned upon the fallen leaders of the parliamentary party; and the Tower dungeons became crowded with those who had either been employed by the Commonwealth, implicated in the death of Charles I. or actively opposed to the restoration of his son.—Sir John Elliott, whose stormy eloquence and sternness of purpose well qualified him to be the leader of a powerful party, was in this reign heavily fined and committed to the Tower during the king's pleasure: in a loftiness of spirit consistent with the genius of his character, he disdained a submission that might have procured his liberty, and consequently ended his days in imprisonment.

We must not dismiss this period without reference to an atrocious attempt that was made upon the Regalia; but our notice must brief.—It appears that in this reign the Regalia was first opened to public inspection; an arrangement which suggested to the mind of a disbanded parliamentarian named Blood, the strangely desperate enterprise of seizing upon a portion of its contents. With this object in view, he proceeded, disguised as a clergyman, on a visit to the Tower, accompanied by a female who passed as his wife: they desired to see the regalia; and just as their wish had been gratified, the lady feigned sudden illness, during which every kindness was shewn to her by Mrs. Edwards, the wife of the keeper of the Jewel-office. This circumstance, which took place about three weeks prior to the intended robbery, led to an intimacy between the parties; and the disguised ruffian having gained the friendship of the family, proposed the introduction of a pretended nephew as a suitor to the daughter of his credulous host and hostess: the artful villain made so plausible a statement of advantages to arise from an alliance, that the proposal was eagerly accepted, and a day fixed for the meeting, Blood having arranged to bring also with him two friends, who wished, as he stated, to see the Regalia. With this understanding, he departed—not forgetting a "canonical benediction of the good company."

On the morning appointed, (May 9, 1671) old Mr. Edwards had got all in readiness for the reception of his guests, and the young lady was in her "best dress" to entertain the expected lover, when Blood arrived, accompanied by three others two of these companions entered with him, but the third stationed himself at the door, under pretence of waiting for Miss Edwards, (who had modestly kept out of the way) but in reality to act as a watch; all the conspirators were secretly armed. Blood then told Mr. Edwards that they would not go up stairs until his wife arrived, and requested that the crown might be shewn to his friends in the mean time: in compliance with this wish, they proceeded to the room, but immediately upon closing the door, Edwards was gagged and a cloak thrown over his head: having thus secured him, they told him that they were resolved to have the crown, the globe, and the sceptre, adding violent threats in case of resistance. Faithful to his trust and regardless of their threats, the old man boldly struggled to raise an alarm; but in vain—the villains by repeated blows on his head and a stab in the body, at length reduced the unfortunate keeper to a state of insensibility. They then proceeded to secure the booty; one of them secreted the orb, Blood placed the crown under his cloak, and a third proceeded to file the sceptre in two for greater convenience in carrying it away: but whilst thus engaged, they were fortunately interrupted by the timely arrival of the son of Mr. Edwards, who had just landed from Flanders, and little expected to encounter such a scene: the old man now revived, and forcing the gag from his mouth, cried out "Treason! Murder!" The villains rushed out with the crown and orb, leaving the sceptre behind; the alarm having become general, a chase ensued; and after a stout resistance, the desperadoes were secured, and the costly plunder restored to its proper quarter, without sustaining any important injury—Blood coolly remarking, as his prey was wrenched from him, "It was a gallant attempt, however unsuccessful—it was for a crown."

But extraordinary as this incident appears, the sequel is equally strange. Blood upon his examination before the king, conducted himself with daring effrontery: he spoke of plots against the royal life, in which he had been engaged; and

even held out threats of vengeance from a powerful band of conspirators who were in league with him, should he be brought to justice. What could have led to such a result—whether the king was really intimidated, or sought to purchase popularity by an ostentatious shew of magnanimity, is still a mystery—but the bold and crafty traitor not only escaped the punishment he so richly deserved, but had property granted to him to the annual amount of £500, and became an influential court follower. Talbot Edwards, however, the venerable keeper who gave such proof of fidelity to his important trust, met with far different treatment: through the great intercession of his friends, a grant was at length obtained from the Exchequer of £200 for himself and £100 for his son: but the payment was so tardy, and the expenses attendant on his wounds so great, that he was obliged to raise ready money by the disposal of his orders at half their usual price. He survived his injuries between three and four years, and died in the 81st year of his age.

Historical associations connected with the Tower, appear to decline in general interest from this period; and our limits will not allow us to extend our notes upon subsequent events; we therefore pass on to the remainder of our task.

JAMES II. 1685.—This suit belonged to the monarch here represented. The figure (last in the line) is habited in a velvet coat with long skirts, over which is a cuirass: on the head is a casque with oreillettes and pierced visor, ornamented with the royal arms and initials “I. R.” On the bridle arm is a long gauntlet, and a buff glove on the right: this strange equipment is completed by a large pair of jack boots with gilt spurs. Altogether this suit presents a ludicrous contrast to the preceding.

Other suits of armour with ancient weapons, placed on figures or formed into trophies, are ranged along the wall. We commence from the door-way at the west end.

1. A Swordsman in a suit of fluted globose armour, 1508.
2. A Trophy of Cuirasses, taken at Waterloo. Pikeman's Armour, &c. surmounted by a Pot-helmet.
3. A Man at Arms, 1530.
4. Foot Soldier in a suit of allecret armour, 1540.
5. “Armour cap-a-pe (according to old inventories) rough from the workman's hammer, said to be King Henry the 8th's.” On the wall behind this figure are several ancient suits of chain mail, hauberks, hoods, and chausses.
6. Suit of armour, about 1512. On the wall behind this figure, are several Brigantine Jackets, of about 1530; and by the side of it are two *Mantelets*, anciently used by sappers and miners when working before a besieged fortress.
- 7, 8. A Knight, *temp. James I.* Two Cavaliers, *temp. Charles I.*
9. A Trophy similar to No. 2.
10. An Officer of Pikemen, 1635. Behind this figure, are several portions of Horse-armour.
11. A Demi-Launcer, about 1555; by the side of which is a Trophy formed of sword-blades, &c. surrounding a cuirass.
12. A magnificent suit of Italian armour, engraved and gilt, about 1620. Purchased by Messrs. Pratt of Count Oddi, of Padua;

by whose ancestor, Count Hector Oddi, it was originally worn.

13. Knight of the time of Elizabeth; on each side of which figure are placed devices of swords, muskets, pistols, &c.

The centre of the platform on the north side is occupied by the Asiatic equestrian suit before named, formerly exhibited as a "Norman Crusader;" on each side of it, is a Trophy composed of armour, time of Charles I. and beyond these, on either hand, a variety of Cavaliers', Cuirassiers', and Pikemen's suits, same period: helmets and other arms are ranged along the walls and on the ceiling. Near the above figure is a curious model; it represents the encounter between the Duke of Clarence (brother of Henry V.) and Garin de Fontaine, a French knight, in which the former was killed.

On the step fronting the platform, are exhibited curious specimens of helmets and other portions of armour; several of which are of high antiquity and great rarity.

Between the platform and the west end of the room, is another armed figure, a Knight of Elizabeth's time; on one side of which are several portions of a fine suit of russet and gilt armour, Venetian make, of the 16th century; and on the other side, six pieces of a puffed and engraved suit, time of Henry VIII.

WESTERN VESTIBULE, (*Cabinet on West side.*)—1. Ancient German Saddle, of bone, ornamented with figures and a Teutonic inscription.

2. Jazerine Jackets, Elizabeth's time.
3. Battle-axe and wheel-lock pistol combined, time James I.
4. Stirrup Cross-bow; time Henry VI.
5. A Latch of wood inlaid with ivory; time Henry VIII.
6. A Windlas for a Latch; time James I.
7. Placcate belonging to the suit of Edward VI.
8. Cantle of a Saddle; time Henry VIII.
9. Antic-headpiece of Will Somers, court-jester to Henry VIII
10. A Dagger, time of Edward III.
11. Ancient British Battle-axe Heads, of bronze.

12—24. Etruscan Helmet, bronze; Morion, time Philip and Mary; Morion, Bavarian Shoulder-shield, and pair of Gauntlets, time Elizabeth; Visor of helmet, time Henry VIII. Spurs with great rowels, 13th century; Spurs, Bits, and ornamented Stirrups, time Charles I. Frontlet of steel with brass studs; Officers' Bandiliers, time Louis XIV. Patron or Cartridge-box, and Powder Flask, time Elizabeth; and Cartouch-box, time James II.

In the *Cabinet on the east side*, are placed sundry portions of body armour, &c. of various periods.

In the *Cabinet on the left hand* of the EASTERN VESTIBULE, are exhibited various specimens of Hand Fire Arms in use from

the first invention of gunnery: also an Air-gun of curious construction; an ancient Warder's Horn of carved ivory, &c.

The Cabinet on the right hand contains some curious Chinese Military Dresses, taken at the recent capture of Chusan. Beneath are specimens of Chinese Boots. These, with a set of Weapons, also taken at Chusan, were presented by J. Gilman, Esq.; the Weapons were destroyed in the late conflagration.—Here are also placed the Helmet, Belt, Straight Sword and Scymetar of Tippoo Saib; Set of Turkish furniture for a horse; Battle axe; three Burgonet Helmets, time Charles I.; Mahratta Sword Gauntlet; steel Mace; Anelace, Daggers, Poignards, &c. various.

We now come to the entrance leading to Queen Elizabeth's Armory: a stream of light cast from the window above, upon surrounding objects, produces a picturesque effect. On each side of this entrance is placed an armed figure: that on the right, is in a suit of Henry VIII.'s time; the other is in a suit of Elizabeth's time. Around are placed various military decorations; amongst which is an engraved back and breast plate, (time Elizabeth) worn by Prince Louis Bonaparte at the Eglintoun Tournament in 1839.

At the top of the stairs, are two grotesque figures, formerly fixed over the Buttery of the Old Palace at Greenwich, and called "Gin" and "Beer;" near them is placed a curiously japanned suit of Indian Armour, presented to Charles II.

We now enter the White Tower by a passage formed in the eastern wall, (which is here 14 feet in thickness) and find ourselves in the room known by the name of

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S ARMORY.

Additional interest is attached to this room from the general supposition that it was the prison-lodging of Sir Walter Raleigh, whom we have before noticed: a dark closet is shewn as his sleeping room. Memorials of three other unfortunate occupants are still legible; viz.—

“HE THAT INDVRETH TO THE ENDE SHALL BE SAVID.
M. 10. R. RUDSON · KENT · AN° 1553.”

“BE FAITFUL VNTO THE DETH AND I WIL GIVE THE A CROWNE OF LIFE. T. FANE, 1554.”

“T. CULPEPER OF DARFORD.”

These persons were concerned in the Wyatt rebellion, and were committed with their leader to the Tower. Rudson, Fane and Culpeper, it is supposed were pardoned: Wyatt was executed.

At the further end of the room is an equestrian figure of queen Elizabeth, in a costume similar to that in which she went to St. Paul's, to return thanks for the deliverance of her kingdom from Spanish invasion. Her horse is represented as led by a page

in costume of the time: by her side is an Archer of the Guard.

The weapons in this apartment were originally removed from a room called the Spanish Weapon House, and exhibited in a building opposite the south-west angle of the White Tower. In 1826, upon Sir S. Meyrick's arrangement of the Armories, they were placed in the room which they now occupy; and the name of the SPANISH ARMORY, by which it was formerly known, changed to that of QUEEN ELIZABETH's ARMORY, from the circumstance of its consisting chiefly of weapons used in her reign, and that of her father, Henry VIII. But there are articles in this room of a much earlier date, which we shall point out.

On the right and left side of the room (on entering) are placed Spears of various kinds and dates; a few of the scarcer sort are models only, and distinguished by their red painted staves.

1. The Glaive; an ancient weapon of Celtic origin.
2. The Guisarme; an early weapon, known in the 12th cent.
- 3, 4. The Bill and English Black Bill: ancient weapons used by the infantry previous to the introduction of the pike.
5. The Voulge; double-edged half way down the blade.
6. The Morning Star or Holy-water Sprinkle: a ball of wood armed with spikes and fixed at the end of a long pole: a kind of weapon said to have been used amongst the infantry from the Conquest to the time of Henry VIII. The term "Holy-water" is here used as a cant phrase for human blood.
7. A variety of the above.
- 8, 9. Ranseur and Spetum: weapons for cutting bridles.
- 10—12. Pole-axe, Boar Spear, and Lochaber Axe.
13. Military Flail.
14. A Catchpole; for pulling a man from his horse.
15. The Military Fork; for catching and cutting bridles.
- 16, 17, 18. The Pike, Halberd, and Partizan.
19. The Spear Linstock: the linstock was an instrument used by the cannonier to carry his match, which was fixed to the branches after the manner of a matchlock musquet. The spear was subsequently added.

We now turn to the NORTH SIDE of the room, where a variety of weapons are ranged along the wall in groups, as follow:

1. A Gauntlet Buckler of steel, and two *marteaux d'armes*, or horsemen's hammers.
2. Iron Bucklers and a Rapier; time of Elizabeth.
3. (Above) Battle-axes, Pole-axes, Marteaux d'armes, and two-handed Mace; 15th and 16th centuries.
4. (Next compartment) Two-handed Battle-axe, time Henry IV. with Marteaux d'armes and ancient Broad-sword.
5. Spanish Buckler with Sword-breaker; 2 Marteaux d'armes.

6. Jedburgh Axe and Target; time Henry VIII
 7. (*Above*) Ornamented Halbards, time Elizabeth; and
 models of embossed shields, of the 16th century.

On the floor is the Heading Block on which Lords Balmerino, Kilmarnock, and Lovat were beheaded on Tower-hill, in 1746. Presented by H. Petrie, Esq. F. S. A. Keeper of the Records.

Heading-axe; said to have been used at the execution of the Earl of Essex; time of Elizabeth.

8. (*On Column*) two Short-swords, times of Henry VII. and James I.; Rapier and two Long-swords, time of James I.

9. Shield of brass, embossed with the Labours of Hercules; also two Broad-swords, time of Henry VIII.

10. Curiously painted Square Shield, time Henry VI. a Mace, time of Henry VIII. and Martel-de-fer, time of James I.

11. Engraved and gilt Target, time James I. two Rapiers, time Philip and Mary.

12. (*Above*) Two-handed Swords and Swords of State, time of Henry VIII.

13. (*On Column*) Anelace, time Henry VIII.; other Swords, times of Henry VIII. and Charles I.

14. Early Kite-shield of wood covered with leather; a Broad sword, time James I. and a Short-sword, time Charles I.

15. Stirrup Crossbow, with moulinet and pulleys; 15th cent.

16. A Latch inlaid with ivory and carved, and its windlass; time of Henry VIII.

17. Two Prods, times of James I. and Charles II. used for discharging small round pebbles or bullets.

18. (*Column*) Ancient crosshilted Sword, time of the Crusades; another Sword of the same period; these are interesting objects.

The INSTRUMENTS OF TORTURE exhibited in this room, are—

Thumbscrews or Thumbkin; formerly used in the extortion of confession, by compression of the thumbs between two bars of iron by means of a screw, and then made fast by a lock.

The Iron Collar of Torture. This was undoubtedly taken from the Spaniards in 1588: it weighs 14 or 15 pounds, and is armed with small knobs or studs of a pointed form.

The Cravat or Scavenger's Daughter. This instrument was used for confining at once the head, hands and feet; binding the body and limbs up into an almost incredibly small compass.

Bilboa or Bilboes, for linking prisoners together by the ankles.

19. Spanish steel Target and ornamented Halberds, time Eliz.

20. Steel Mace, Daggers, Stilettos, &c. and two mounted scythe blades, taken from the rebels at the battle of Sedgmoor, 1685.

21. Various Targets and Pikes.

SOUTH SIDE, (*west window.*) Variety of Spear-linstocks,

Pikes, Partizans, and hollow-headed Spears, time Henry VIII. In the glass case, are two White Bows of yew, recovered in 1841 from the wreck of the **Mary Rose**, sunk off Spithead, in 1545! An ancient English Arrow-head is in the same case.

On the wall between the windows, are **Guisarmes, Glaives, Bills, Partizans, Spetums, &c.** and an ancient Lamp with spear-head.

By the middle window is a curious early weapon called a mace-cannon: two Hand-cannons with trunnions, times Edward IV. and Henry VII.; ancient Dutch Gun with inscription; Match-lock Gun, 16th cent. Matchlock Petronel, that formerly belonged to **Henry VIII.** with other articles in gunnery, various periods Circular Shield borne by the guard of **Henry VIII.** also a Cast from a French Shield, time of **Francis I.** Partizans, Pikes, &c.

On the window sill are French Powder-flasks, time **Louis XIV.** and below is a grated Target, with matchlock gun, time **Edw. VI.**

On the wall between the windows are ancient Long Pikes and Boar-spears (military weapons, similar to those used in the chase) they were in the Tower in the time of **Edward VI.**; Partizans, &c. Above is a Pavoise or archer's shield, adorned with a rude picture of the Crucifixion; formerly exhibited as the Consecrated Banner.

East window:—Pole-axe, time **Eliz.**; curious Partizans, &c. various periods; a “Great holly-water Sprinkle, with three gonne on the toppe,” formerly shewn as **Henry VIII.**’s Walking-staff.

Below are various kinds of Shot,—Box, Link, Chain, Star, &c.

Over the entrance door is the model of a Norman Shield with iron Targets, &c. and in other parts of the room are placed numerous articles, needing no description from their similarity to others already noticed.

Outside the Horse Armory are placed two brass Mortars, taken from the French at Acre by Sir Sydney Smith; and on the east side of the central door-way is a large Stone Shot, supplied from the Maidstone quarries in the time of **Henry VIII.**

The visitor is now conducted to the Ruins of the Grand Storehouse: we have spoken before of the calamity by which this desolation was effected: let us now glance at the buildings before us.

Upon the left of the ruins, is the church of **St. Peter ad Vincula.** This building was erected in the time of **Edward I.**; but a church or chapel dedicated to the same saint and connected with the Tower, existed before that period. Here, in common dust repose the persecuted and the persecutor—the victims of ambition, tyranny, and conscience: here were placed the remains of Fisher, More, Queen Anne Boleyn and her brother, Lord Rochford, Catherine Howard; also Margaret, Countess of Salisbury; Cromwell and Devereux, Earls of Essex; the good Protector, Edward, Duke of Somerset; Lady Jane Grey and her husband;

the intriguing Duke of Northumberland, with a long train of those who bled on the fatal Green in front, or on the adjoining Hill: here are placed the ashes of those who in life experienced the extremes of grandeur and of misery—the glory and the shame of former ages.

Opposite the Church, and in the south-west angle of the inner enclosure, are the Lieutenant's Lodgings, occupied by the resident governor. This building is of the time of Henry VIII. and remarkable for a room called the Council Chamber, where the conspirators concerned in the Gunpowder Plot were examined: the event is commemorated in Hebrew and Latin inscriptions on differently coloured marbles, placed against the right-hand wall.

Immediately behind this building is the Bell Tower, which we have before noticed as the prison of Bishop Fisher, &c.

Between the Lieutenant's Lodgings and the Church, stands the Beauchamp or Cobham Tower. This building consist of two stories, ascended by a circular stone staircase: it is supposed to have been erected in the reigns of John and Henry III. and has been used as the principal state-prison of this fortress. Its walls are crowded with memorials of those who sorrowed and suffered in the Tower: * here are the deep and lasting autographs of John Dudley, Earl of Warwick; Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel; Charles Bailly, agent of Mary of Scotland; the Poole's, great grandsons of George, Duke of Clarence, (Edward IV.'s brother); under the inscription of Edmund Poole is the word IANE, commonly ascribed to the hand of Lady Jane Grey, but Mr. Bayley attributes it to that of her affectionate husband: here are the names of Thomas Fitzgerald, 1534; Sedbar, Abbot of Joreval, 1537; Dr. Abel, chaplain to Catherine of Arragon; Thomas Cobham, son of Lord Cobham, 1555; Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, (Elizabeth's favorite); Sir Ingram Percy, and many others;—whose names are occasionally coupled with devout maxims, coats of arms, &c. many of these inscriptions are beautifully carved and elaborately ornamented—a striking illustration of the energy with which the mind enters into a self-allotted task, during the denials of solitude and imprisonment. The upper part of this tower, has been pointed out as the prison of Queen Ann Boleyn, but that supposition has been proved to be erroneous.

To the north of the Beauchamp Tower stands the Devereux Tower. In Henry VIII.'s time it was called "Robyn the Devyll's

* This portion of the fortress was in the year 1796, converted into a mess-house for the officers of the garrison, and has ever since been appropriated to that use. It was whilst making alterations necessary for the above purpose, that these interesting memorials were discovered. The Beauchamp Tower is not open to the public, but only to be visited by permission.

"Tower," and in 1597, the Develin Tower: the origin of its two latter names is unknown.* It takes its present name from Devereux, earl of Essex in Elizabeth's time, having been confined there

Eastward are the remains of the Flint, the Bowyer, and the Brick Towers: the last is supposed to have been the prison of Lady Jane Grey: the Bowyer Tower took its name from having been anciently occupied by the master and provider of the king's bows, and is reputed to have been the scene of Clarence's murder by drowning in a malmsey-butt: in this Tower it was that the recent fire originated.

The Martin Tower (at the north-east angle) was formerly a prison-lodging: in this dark and dismal dungeon were afterwards deposited the crown jewels: but a more commodious and appropriate building has since been erected for their reception.

The Broad Arrow and Salt Towers are on the eastern side of the White Tower: both were chiefly used as prisons, and many inscriptions in them have been nearly obliterated; but a very curious carving has been preserved in the Salt Tower, representing a sphere covered with astrological characters, the work of "Hew: Draper: of: Brystow," an unfortunate conjuror, committed in Elizabeth's reign (1561).

The WHITE TOWER, standing nearly in the centre of the inner ward, is a massive quadrangular building, measuring 116 feet from north to south, and 96 ft. east and west; its height is 92 ft. It is divided into three floors, exclusive of capacious vaults. A portion of the ground-floor is occupied (as we have before observed) by the collection known as Queen Elizabeth's Armory: on the second floor, immediately over the Armory, is St. John's Chapel, generally admitted to be one of the finest specimens of Norman architecture extant: this chapel was the private place of worship of our ancient kings when they held their courts in the Tower of London; but its occupation for devotional purposes has long been discontinued, and it is now used as a depository for a portion of the national records. On the upper floor, which is also appropriated to a similar purpose, is an apartment called the Council Chamber; supposed to be the room in which a scene

* Although it is well known that the Tower abounded with chambers especially set apart for the purposes of torture, yet conjecture only can be used in regard to their locality: but it is not at all improbable, that the ancient names attached to this building may be connected, with the dreadful uses to which it was formerly appropriated. Tradition speaks of a dungeon which, from its connection with the river, was at high water the haunt of innumerable rats. The wretched captive, let down into this "horrible pit," became an object for attack, and was literally devoured alive by these noxious vermin, rendered ferocious by hunger, and bold from an instinctive perception of the wretched victim's helplessness. May not the subterranean dungeon of the Devil's Tower have been the scene of such infernal sacrifices? The heart sickens at the bare idea of such cruelty from man to man.

took place that will long excite interest—for Shakspeare has assisted the page of history in recording it to posterity; we allude to the impeachment of Lord Hastings by the Protector, Richard Duke of Gloucester, with the arrest of the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Ely, and Lord Stanley: the unhappy Hastings was immediately conducted to the Court-yard, and beheaded on a piece of timber that was lying in front of the chapel.

The **ORDNANCE OFFICE** stands to the south of the White Tower: it is a large modern building, erected on the scite of one destroyed by fire in 1788. To this office, all other offices for the supply of artillery, arms, ammunition, and other warlike stores, are accountable; to and from which office, all orders are issued for materials of war required by the government.—Here stood the royal residence—scene of those splendours which occasionally relieved the frowning character of this fortress—the palace to which all our monarchs, from William Rufus to Charles II. at times resorted. Observe that dark patch of ground, opposite the chapel—there the scaffold held its place, forming, through the dreadful operations connected with it, so prominent a feature in the annals of the Tower of London.

Having viewed the Ruins of the Grand Storehouse, and those articles which have been preserved, the visitor (if desirous) is conducted to

THE REGALIA,

of which the Tower has been the depository since the reign of Henry III. These jewels were originally kept in a small building on the south side of the White Tower; but in Charles I.'s reign were transferred to a strong room in the Martin Tower, where they remained until the recent fire, when they were removed for security to the Governor's House: they are now placed in the New Jewel-House erected in 1840-1; a depository much better suited to public convenience, and more in character with the importance of its contents. Several of our ancient monarchs have been compelled by their exigencies to raise money by pledging the crown jewels: to such means were Henry III. Edward III. Richard II. Henry V. and Henry VI. driven. We will now proceed to notice the costly articles here submitted to inspection.

The ancient Imperial Crown was made for Charles II. to replace the one said to have been worn by Edward the Confessor, which was broken up and sold during the civil wars. Its arches, flowers, and fillets, are covered with large jewels of every colour, surrounding a cap of purple velvet, faced with ermine.

The Prince of Wales's Crown is of plain gold, without any jewels. When there is a heir apparent to the throne, it is placed

before his seat in the House of Lords, on a velvet cushion.

The Ancient Queen's Crown is of gold, set with diamonds of great value, intermixed with pearls and other costly jewels: the cap is of purple velvet, faced with ermine.

The Queen's Diadem, or Circlet of Gold, was made for the consort of James II. It is adorned with large diamonds, curiously set; the upper edge of the border is banded with a string of pearls. It has been estimated to have cost £111,000.

Saint Edward's Staff is of pure gold, 4 feet 7 inches in length, and three quarters of an inch in diameter: on the top is an orb and a cross, and shod with a steel spike: a fragment of the real cross is said to be deposited in the orb.

The Royal Sceptre with the Cross is also of gold, and 2 feet 3 inches in length. The staff is plain, but the pommel is ornamented with rubies, emeralds, and diamonds. This sceptre is adorned with golden leaves, bearing the rose, the shamrock, and thistle: the cross, covered with jewels of various kinds, has in the centre a large table diamond.

The Royal Sceptre with the Dove or Rod of Equity. The cross whereon this symbol of peace reposes is, together with the centre and pommel, richly covered with jewels; the sceptre itself is of gold, and 3 feet 7 inches in length.

The Queen's Sceptre with the Cross is somewhat smaller than the above; of beautiful workmanship and richly ornamented with precious stones.

The Queen's Ivory Sceptre belonged to the consort of James II. is mounted in gold, and bears on the top a dove of white onyx.

An ancient Sceptre discovered behind the wainscoting of the old Jewel-office in 1814. It is finely wrought, and richly decorated with precious stones, and is supposed to have been made for the consort of William III.

The Orb is about six inches in diameter, edged with pearls and ornamented with precious stones, and surrounded by roses of diamonds. This orb is placed in the sovereign's left hand on the coronation ceremony.

The Queen's Orb is of smaller dimensions than the preceding, but composed of the same splendid materials and ornaments.

The Swords of Justice, ecclesiastical and temporal; these weapons are of steel, ornamented with gold.

The Sword of Mercy; also of steel, gilt, but pointless.

The Armilla, or Coronation Bracelets, are of gold, and chased with the rose, the fleur-de-lys, and harp, edged with pearls.

The Royal Spurs, used in the coronation ceremony, curiously wrought in gold.

The Ampulla or Golden Eagle; this vessel is of pure gold,

and of great antiquity: at the coronations of our sovereigns, it contained the oil with which they were anointed.

The Anointing Spoon, also of gold, and of similar antiquity.

The Golden Salt-cellar of State is placed on the table at coronation banquets. It is of gold, set with jewels, adorned with grotesque figures, and is shewn as a model of the White Tower; to which, however, it bears but slight resemblance. Twelve small *Salt-cellars* of gold, used on similar occasions, are interspersed.

A large Silver Wine Fountain, presented by the Corporation of Plymouth to Charles II.: this is used at coronation and other state banquets.

The Baptismal Font with Stand, of silver gilt, used at the baptism of Her present Majesty, and at that of the Prince of Wales: this magnificent piece is upwards of four feet high.

In addition to these are shewn the beautifully wrought service of *Sacramental Plate*, used at coronations and in the chapel of St. Peter in the Tower; the two massive *Tankards*, *Banqueting Dish*, and other *Dishes and Spoons*, all of gold, and used at the same august festival.

This magnificent display of England's Regalia is surmounted by the **NEW STATE CROWN**, made for Her present Majesty. The cap of purple velvet is enclosed by silver hoops, covered with diamonds: surmounting these hoops is a ball, also adorned with small diamonds, bearing a cross formed of brilliants, in the centre of which is a unique sapphire: in the front of this crown is the heart-formed ruby, stated to have been worn by Edward the Black Prince.—Such is the diadem that graced our Sovereign's brow: may "He who wears the crown immortally long guard it" in her right and to the just inheritance of those who spring from her!

REGULATIONS.

[THE Government having determined, that in future, persons desirous of seeing the Armories at the Tower, should be admitted at a reduced fee; the following Regulations have been ordered by the Constable of the Tower and the Board of Ordnance, to be attended to by all persons concerned, to commence 1st May, 1838; viz.—

"The Armory Ticket Office at the Entrance-gate, has been opened for the sale of Tickets of Admission to the Armouries, at **SIXPENCE** each person.

"The Ante-room to the Armories is for the reception of the Parties who have obtained their Ticket at the Ticket-office, until conducted by the Warders, who will be ordered to attend them from **ten o'clock** until **four o'clock**, and will take round the Armories, **EVERY HALF HOUR**, those who have assembled there.

"The Visitors on proceeding to the Armories, will please to deliver their Tickets to the Warder, for him to hand over to the Armory-keeper; and they are requested not to touch any of the articles in the Armories.—No Fees to be demanded."]

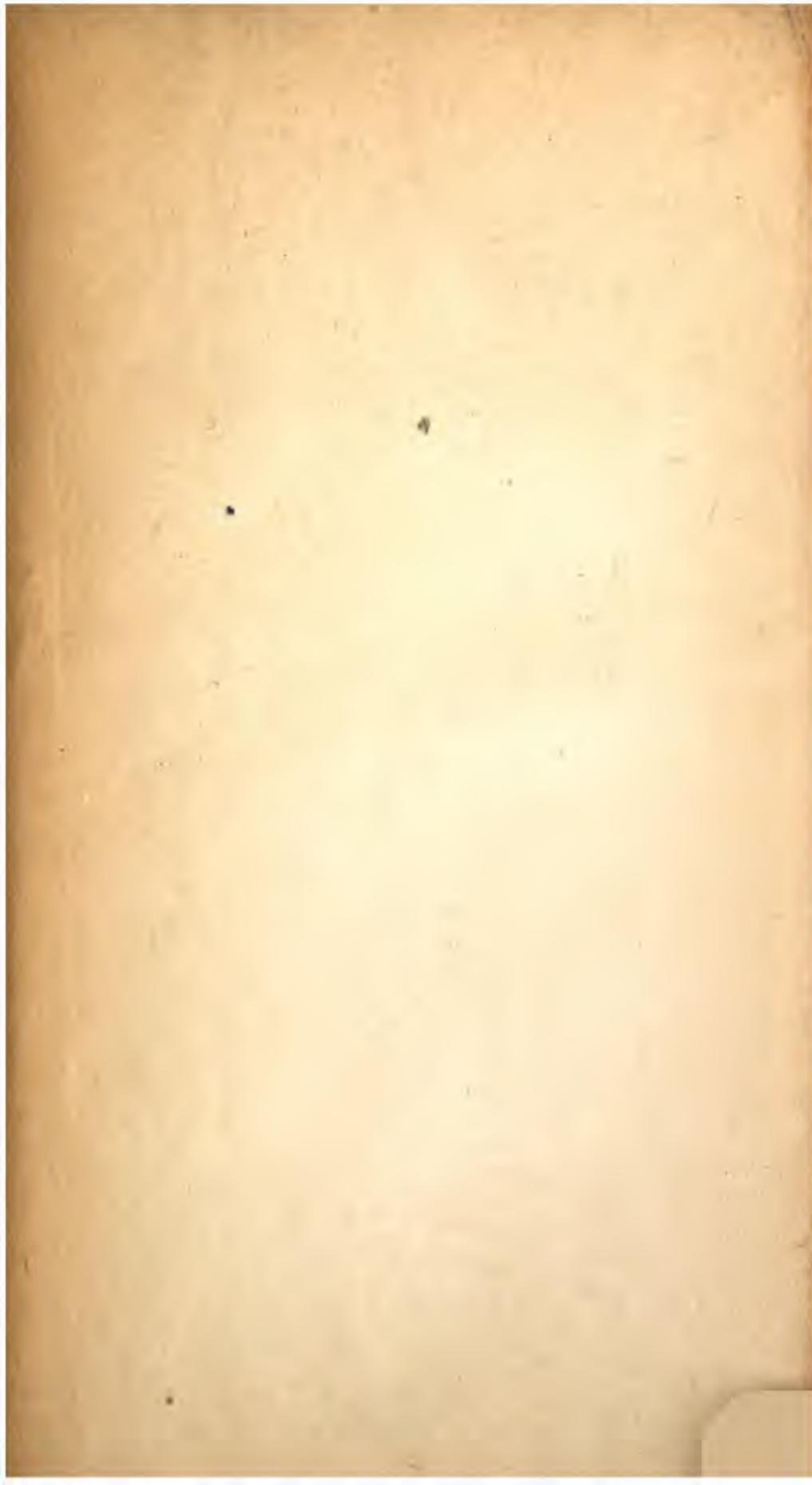
The above Regulations regard the Armories only. The CROWN JEWEL OFFICE is not at all connected with the Ordnance department, and the Fee of Admission to view the REGALIA is SIXPENCE each person

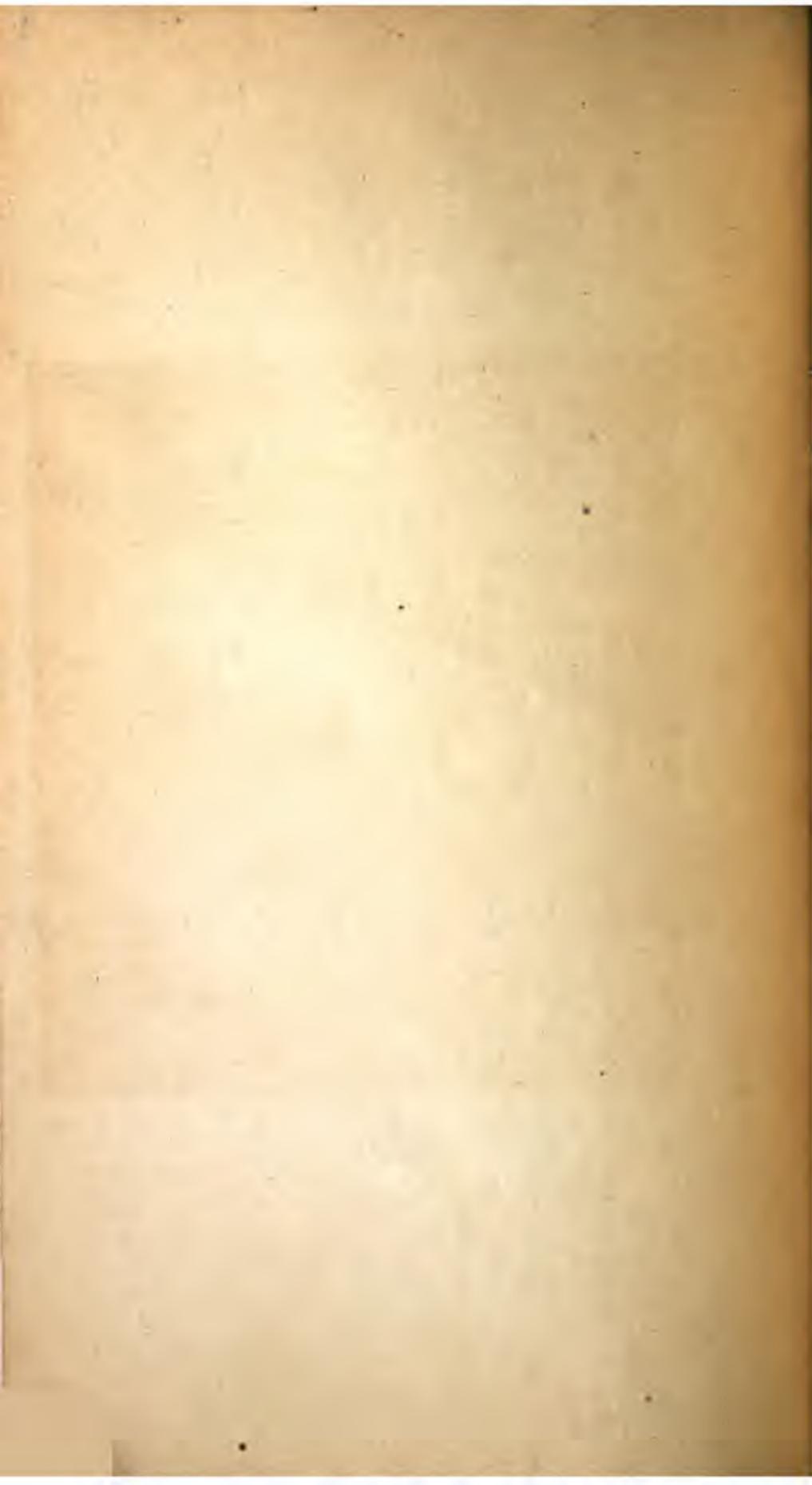


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